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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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UNDERGRADUATES

THE LIBRARIES OF THE INSTITUTE
OF JAMAICA

AUTHORS WHO DIED IN 1957

L.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
REPORT

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VOL. 60 NO. 10

OCTOBER 1958

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A Librarian's Calendar

October 22nd.—G.L.D. (A.A.L.), Chaucer House, 6.30 p.m.
Debate with society of Young Publishers.

October 24th.—L.A. Council Election voting papers issued.

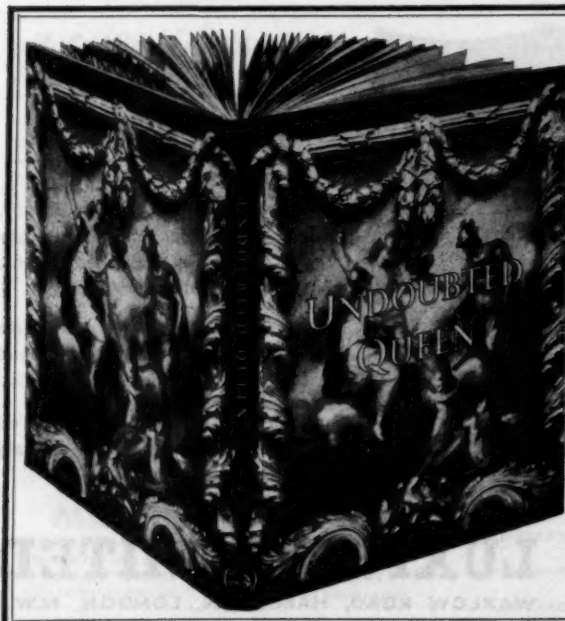
October 29th.—London and Home Counties Branch, meet at Middle Temple Lane, Embankment Entrance, for tour of Temple, 3 p.m. Visit to Inner Temple Library and address by Librarian, 6.15 p.m.

November 12th.—Youth Libraries Section, Chaucer House, 7 p.m. "Meeting V. H. Drummond".

November 13th.—University and Research Section (London Group), visit to Institutes of Archaeology and Classical Studies, 5.45-6.30 p.m. Sherry in the Common Room, to be followed by a short address by the Director, and a tour of the libraries and collections. Tickets, 4s., from Miss Cox-Johnson, St. Marylebone P.L., N.W.1. Early application advisable.

November 18th.—Reference and Special Libraries Section (S.E. Group) and University and Research Section (London Group), Chaucer House, 6.30 p.m. (tea and biscuits from 6 p.m.). Mr. Ellic Howe on "A Printer and his books: a fragment of bibliographical-cum-typographical autobiography".

November 26th-28th.—L.A. Committees and Council.



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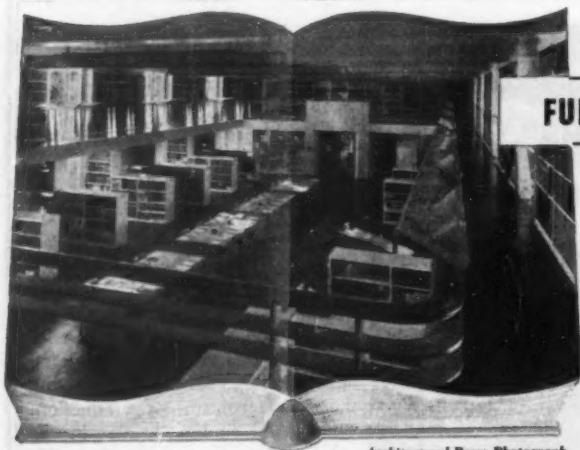


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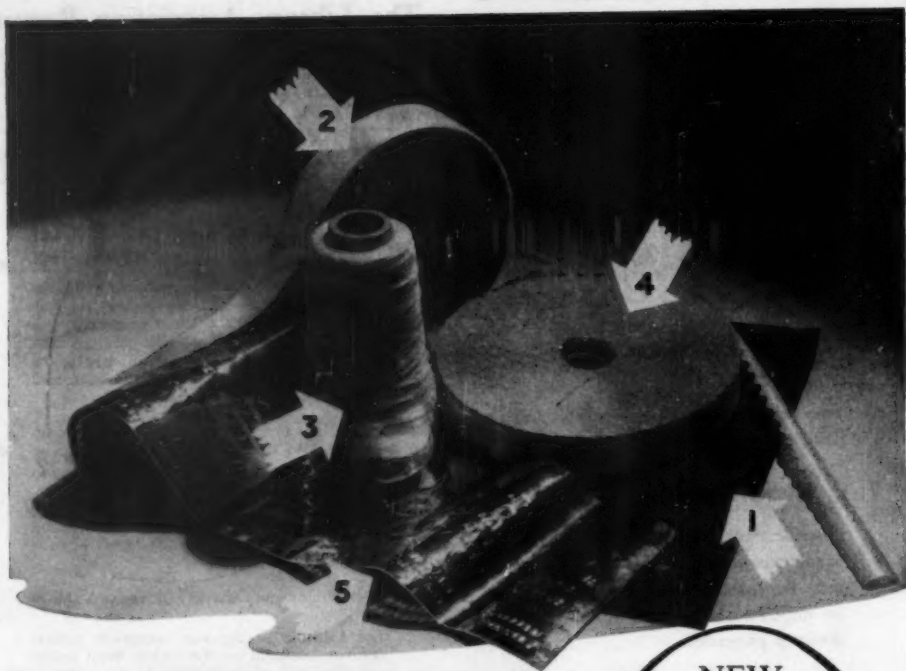
Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1
Editor: A. J. Walford, M.A., Ph.D., F.L.A.

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The Library Association Record

OCTOBER 1958

Presidential Address*

By PROFESSOR RAYMOND IRWIN, M.A., F.L.A.

Director, School of Librarianship and Archives, University College, London

THERE are two sorts of librarians: those who do the work of their libraries, and those who tell others what to do and how to do it. Most professions are of course divided like this; wherever people work together in teams, there must be executive grades and technical grades. There must be men "set under authority", like the Roman centurion in the Bible, who could say "unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it". This centurion was a subaltern who had almost certainly been trained in the ranks; he had himself been under discipline, learning to answer somebody else's orders smartly and at the double. He knew how a soldier's tasks should be done, because he had been schooled to do them himself. That indeed is the best qualification of an executive officer. The housewife who can get good work out of a maid (or should I say a "lady help"?) is the one who has learnt herself to do the household tasks of cleaning and cooking with cheerful competence. Mark that word "cheerful". The good leader of men has learnt to accept the routine task and even to enjoy it as a means to an end. The youngster with a grievance against his fate never achieves the art of leadership.

Now, in this modern age our institutions have grown so complex that our leaders, our executive officers, have been compelled to create a great new class of people to put their orders into effect and administer the complicated system in which they are working: not entirely new, perhaps, this administrative class (it existed in the ancient world wherever an empire had grown great and powerful), but new at least today in its size and ramifications, so that it sometimes seems to overwhelm the system which it is serving.

So we have three classes claiming our professional name: the top people who (if the library

be a great one) sit at a lordly desk, a copy of *The Times* on one side of them, two or three telephones on the other, and an attractive secretary in the background; a middle class of administrative officers who protect their chief from interference and transmit his orders to the rank and file; and an army of "bottom people", who do the real work of the library. There is also a fourth class of people, who in earlier days would have been called scribes, but today have become typists; they are mainly engaged in producing documents to fill the files which the administrative officers carry about as evidence of their busy activity, but as they rarely touch a book (except surreptitiously in off moments), they are not deemed worthy of professional status. The real librarians do openly touch books from time to time. The top people of course have on their expensive desks a book trough containing what they call a "librarian's library": an impressive row of volumes, including a dictionary of quotations for use in preparing speeches, a *Who's who* for identifying distinguished visitors, a copy of Bradshaw to assist in their important journeys to London (or Brighton), an Oxford Book of English (or even French) Verse to give the right air of humanism to the room, and an English dictionary to solve spelling problems. The administrative officers need no such aids to memory, but they keep a sharp eye on new acquisitions, so that they can enjoy the best of them before anyone else has a chance; this is called "anticipating the demand". The bottom people are usually too busy to read systematically, but they develop a remarkable facility for memorizing titles and scenting out the interesting passages in new novels.

All this, you will say, is an amusing caricature, but quite false; as indeed an over-simplification must always be. In reality, our staffs are rarely divided into such convenient compartments. The top people, in addition to reading *The Times*,

* Delivered on Tuesday, 23rd September, 1958, in the Dome, Brighton.

and interviewing important visitors, do sometimes achieve some real and useful work; the administrative people, for all their appearance of busyness, often know their job profoundly, and contribute something of genuine value. But a good caricature should have more than a grain of truth in it, and perhaps this has. In practice, the average library is too short of money to employ senior staff on the scale I have implied; it is our work, rather than the staff, that gets separated into administrative, technical and clerical compartments. The true work of librarianship is all technical and bibliographical; and the administrative and clerical aspects of it are simply and solely means to an end, and must be assessed as such. Do they make the technical work easier, or do they handicap it by clogging the machine? That is the question, and it must be asked and answered repeatedly by those in charge of every growing organization.

Sometimes, of course, it is the hope of financial reward that tempts people to abandon true librarianship and devote themselves to administration. In some of our big national libraries this temptation is countered by giving assistant keepers a salary scale which comes very near that of the top people: a very sensible idea on the whole. It can, of course, be carried to extremes, as you might see by comparing the income that a coal-miner can earn, and that of the manager under whom he works; wages and salaries are, however, things apart, and not intended to be compared. Short of this, it is surely wise to discourage the drift from librarianship to administration by any practicable means.

There are two points worth noting. As any organization grows in size and complexity, the administrative work always tends to grow disproportionately; and unless it is curbed, there comes a time when it reaches an uneconomic proportion, so that the cost becomes too high and the service inefficient. Those who have enjoyed the recent book by C. Northcote Parkinson will see here the relevance of the now famous "Parkinson's Law", which lays down that "work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion". And they will not forget the corollaries to this illuminating dictum. These include the following: that the number of officials, and the quantity of the work are not related to each other at all; that officials make work for each other; that administrators are more or less bound to multiply; and that the ideal of every official is to multiply subordinates, not rivals. Thus work expands only to keep pace

with the expanding staff, and much the same results are achieved at ever-increasing cost and with ever-increasing labour. In other words, the inflationary spiral attacks our administrative machinery, as it attacks every part of the economy; more money is needed, more staff is needed to spend the extra money; more money again is needed to pay the extra staff. All these momentous canons of the science of administration are, of course, part of the argument against the concentration of too big an organization into a single unit; and the argument is particularly significant when it concerns an institution supplying not standardized goods, but individual, personal service.

The other point is that we need to be very cautious about what people today call "automation". This idea is apt to raise as many problems as it solves; and only a very large organization can afford to give full rein to it. I doubt whether any library in this country is really big enough to contemplate it seriously on a large scale. Perhaps no library ought to be quite as big as this. Obviously, there are some mechanical devices that we can usefully adopt, but a wary eye is needed here. No apparatus is apt to be so time-wasting as the kind that is advertised as labour-saving; and even if such apparatus is economical in a very large organization, it is often extravagant in any other circumstances. Beware of automation for automation's sake.

Consider, for example, that now old-fashioned instrument of automation, the typewriter. It is quite possible (though no doubt foolish) to argue that even this is an extravagant substitute for the scribe. It demands an administrative staff to keep it busy; and while it is busy, it is all the time creating work by producing documents that are not as important as they seem, and which we should never miss if they did not exist. Once produced, however, we have to consider and reconsider them, amend them and re-draft them, pass them from department to department, file them according to some elaborate system, and finally lose them altogether; but it often takes an unconscionable time to lose them (except when you really need one urgently, and then it is usually missing). Life was much simpler without all this.

Perhaps the most time-consuming instrument that besets the administrative staff is the committee; time-consuming and paper-consuming too. Nothing manufactures documents, minutes, agendas, reports, memoranda, on so fertile, and so vast a scale, and of such transitory and evanescent importance, as the committee,

supported as it always must be by a battery of typewriters. There is nothing very new about the committee, but there is nothing very old either. As a common instrument of government, it is only a century or two old, for it dates from the rise of the modern democracies, and from the humanitarian movement of the late 18th century, when it became fashionable to form committees for every purpose under the sun. Now, a committee can be intensely irritating; it can be excessively frustrating; it damps enthusiasm, it wastes time, it frays tempers, it curbs experiment. But I think we must recognize that it is part of the price we pay for the blessings of democracy. Nobody has yet invented any substitute for it, any better instrument of democratic government. The alternative is dictatorship, and though dictatorship may occasionally have its uses, we know too much about its possibilities today to encourage it in any circumstances whatever. And knowing this, we must surely accept the committee, with all its disadvantages, and support it with all our strength. It is both a safeguard and a safety valve in our present troubled world.

Bearing all this in mind, there is a technique of committee practice which all who serve on committees, or work under them, should understand. In my early days, my chief, the late J. L. Holland (then Director of Education in Northamptonshire) told me once that I was never in any circumstances to refer to the committee under which I served as "my committee". He said it sounded as though the committee was in my pocket. I said that that's where I thought it was. "Certainly", he replied, "that's where it should be. But don't advertise the fact, man; keep it dark". It was J. L. Holland's own practice to keep two trays on his desk. Into one he put all documents of minor interest which he would report to the committee. The other tray contained really important documents which he would deal with himself.

On this topic it may entertain you if I quote a passage from John Galsworthy. In his *Swan Song*, when Michael Mont is planning a campaign to convert the slums, he pauses to consider the habits of committees. "In an Age governed almost exclusively by Committees", Galsworthy writes, "Michael knew fairly well what Committees were governed by. A Committee must not meet too soon after food, for then the Committee men would sleep; nor too soon before food, for then the Committee men would be excitable. The Committee men should be allowed to say what they liked, without direction,

until each was tired of hearing the others say it. But there must be someone present, preferably the Chairman, who said little, thought more, and could be relied on to be awake when that moment was reached, whereupon a middle policy voiced by him to exhausted receivers, would probably be adopted."

This, by and large, is the way in which democracy works, as every chairman knows, or should know. It may be a clumsy way, but on the whole it works surprisingly well; and as I say, it is infinitely better than any alternative that man has yet invented.

It has one serious handicap, however. Democracy works by the division of responsibility among many people. And when responsibility is shared in this way, it is fatally easy for it to be shirked. It is so tempting to avoid a bold decision, to take the simplest and safest way out of a difficulty, to fall back on an ineffective compromise or even to shelve the matter altogether. Sometimes of course this is the wisest method; but if it is not, then nobody is individually responsible; it is always the other members who are to blame. The division of responsibility works only if there is a spirit of leadership among the members; if there are one or two members who are natural leaders of men, able to win the confidence of their fellow-members and prepared to take over the helm and guide them to a decision. For democracy implies more than a division of responsibility; it demands that we trust those who are trustworthy. The democratic body (whether it be the country with its Parliament, the town with its council, or our own Library Association), in which nobody trusts anybody, will always be incompetent and ineffective. Neither our M.P.s, nor the members of our own L.A. Council, are delegates, tied hand and foot to our own apron strings. They are democratic representatives, whom we have chosen because we think we can trust their judgement and their discretion, knowing they will act on our behalf according to their experience and wisdom. If they make a grave mistake, out they go. But till then we must, having chosen them, trust them. Democracy will only work if trustworthy leaders in whom the ordinary man can place his confidence come forward. It seems to me that we have lately been suffering from a shortage of wise and strong leaders, both in Parliament and elsewhere. Or, is it that the ordinary man today thinks he knows too much about things in general, and is not prepared to place his confidence in any but himself? If so, the outlook is bleak. Destructive

criticism is so easy a game, and the kind of constructive co-operation on which democracy must be founded is so comparatively difficult and demanding. All this applies to our own professional association as much as to our local councils and to Parliament.

And from committees, it is an easy step to conferences. There are of course different types of conference. There is the kind that meets to exchange the results of scientific research; and this type has an honourable history extending three centuries back or more. There is the political conference, which has become a recognized feature of our party machines. There is the conference of trade union delegates, mainly concerned with wages and conditions of service, but often tempted to express views on political questions. And there are professional conferences such as our own, which are in a sense hybrids, for they deal with technical and cultural problems as well as strictly professional questions. Almost within this century the fashion for conferences has spread to every section of the population which can be organized into corporate form, so that it has become a confirmed, ingrained habit. For nine months of the year there are always conferences of some variety being held somewhere, and they do at least contribute to the vitality of a number of our pleasant resorts. Is it a good habit, or a bad habit? Good in parts, no doubt. It is a habit even more firmly fixed in America than here. If you want to know the lengths to which it had gone (or the depth to which it had descended) in the United States forty years ago, read again Chapter 13 of Sinclair Lewis's *Babbitt*, which describes the annual convention of the State Association of Real Estate Boards; and since that day the kind of high jinks which Mr. George F. Babbitt enjoyed so vigorously have no doubt become even higher and more extraordinary.

Remember of course that the conference, like the committee, is one way in which democracy works, and we must accept it as such. It is one way in which the "voice of the people" makes itself heard. It is also a vehicle for what our American friends call "concerted thinking", which is usually not thinking at all; more often it is shirking thought, and picking up in its place the more fashionable second-hand opinions of the moment. Again, the conference is a democratic safety-valve, as indeed the committee often is, and in this sense it is a highly useful instrument. Consider what a safety-valve does. It eases tension by releasing surplus energy. It prevents explosions by dispersing accumula-

tions of waste material. This is not of course very complimentary to those who contribute to a conference. If anyone here feels insulted, bear in mind that the insult falls on my contribution as much as on yours. However profoundly true it may be, for politeness' sake let us call it partially true and so offend nobody. All the same, the waste material is plainly there in some quantity. If any one doubts this, let him examine the report of any conference: not of course this conference (which we can assume will be an exceptionally good one), but one at a safe distance—five, ten or twenty years ago—and see how much of it deals wisely with matters of moment, and how much with trivialities that were scarcely worth saying or recording. Perhaps, however, if they helped then to ease tension or disperse waste material, that is sufficient justification for them.

There are of course other reasons for the conference habit. Conferences, we are told, have good publicity value. They enable us to advertise our achievements to the nation, and to justify ourselves in the eyes of the man in the street. How seriously the man in the street takes what we give him in this way, I am not sure. Of one thing there is no shadow of doubt: propaganda is dangerous unless you can deliver the goods. Publicity on a national scale pays if there is a nation-wide service with uniformly high standards; without this, it may come back on you like a boomerang.

There is perhaps a better reason for the conference habit than this. It brings colleagues together from all parts of the country and from overseas. It enables them to get to know each other, and to meet socially as well as professionally; almost certainly the most valuable reason of all for holding conferences. But note that the bigger the conference, the less effective it becomes in this way, for in a very large gathering, people tend to remain in their own small groups. And apart from all this, the conference habit gives a large number of people a very happy excuse for an extra holiday at very little expense, though of course we don't draw more attention to this excuse than need be.

We can, however, ask ourselves—indeed we ought to ask ourselves occasionally—whether the conference habit is becoming overdone. At a guess, the total cost of this conference of ours would build a handsome new library, in some place where a handsome new library is needed. A fair proportion of this money is supplied from rates—and most of us are indeed ratepayers. Perhaps it is bold of me to ask, in the presence of

our kind hosts in Brighton, "Is it worth it?" but I think they will themselves understand that it is right that we should be clear about this. And if our good friends of the Press are pricking up their ears at this moment, may I remind them that though I am posing this question, I have no intention whatever of answering it. In any case, the time to answer it is not now, when we are all enjoying the generous hospitality of a great and famous resort, but at some later date, when everyone has returned home, expenses have been safely paid, and when we are distracted, neither by happy memories of Brighton, nor by equally happy anticipations of Torquay. Then is the time to ask ourselves whether it is all worth the while and worth the money, or whether perhaps it would be more worth while, if its organization or form were changed in some degree; whether, for example, branch and sectional conferences give better value for money than the national conference.

So much then for committees and conferences, and the various other things that keep our administrative machinery busy. It is wise to ask ourselves constantly how much of this is necessary to support our real work, and how much is just dead weight. And what exactly is our real work? However you define true librarianship, it is all directly and closely connected with books and the proper use of books: not merely with the outsides of books, or the backs of books, but with their insides, their contents, and with the information or the aesthetic pleasure that they yield to the reader or to the enquirer. This surely is, or ought to be, our pre-occupation, our whole life. This is the alpha and omega of our task, our one all-embracing, all-pervading interest, our commanding purpose. Everything else pales to insignificance beside it. This is the sole end before us. Nothing else can justify our existence. The rest is but means to this high end.

Even here, in the bibliographical heart of our library, there are clogging routines that only too often hinder, rather than help. Doubtless, they were fashioned originally to help us, but once a routine is firmly established in any large organization, it becomes so difficult to change it, or to replace it by a simpler routine. Moreover, by then it has become orthodox practice, and to think of changing it seems heretical. Bear in mind, however, that all routines are worth costing, and that their relative value may alter as prices and salaries rise. The present-day cost of cataloguing a single book is frankly alarming. Is it really heretical to suggest that in

a popular general library, and perhaps in some other libraries also, certain classes of books might be regarded as expendable? Even our treasurers or auditors, if they probed closely into our affairs, might regard this notion as not entirely impracticable; and indeed it is being done today in certain libraries with certain types of book. Obviously there are some books in our libraries which are not expendable. Equally there are some that scarcely justify expensive recording in present circumstances. I advocate nothing, however, except an honest and unprejudiced review of these routines, in the hope of finding dead wood which can be safely pruned away; and I have a feeling that there is more dead wood waiting to be cut out than we sometimes realize. One caution must be given here: expendable must never be synonymous with worthless, and nothing of this can justify any lowering of the standard of book provision.

Many of us here—most of us probably—have some books in our keeping; some books that are well worth "keeping", books of which we are proud to be called "keepers" in the old and true sense of that word, when it stood for "curator", the man who had charge of, or took care of, a library. These books that we keep in this sense—are they "closed books" to us? To what extent can we think of them as "open books"? They cannot all be open, of course; but how much exploration have we done? How many of them do we really know, either as acquaintances or as friends? Are we like those assistants whom Carlyle found in the British Museum? They were prompt and civil enough, he said, but they were not acquainted with books except on the outside. I am old-fashioned enough to believe that a librarian, a "keeper" of books, should be a well-read man; that he should not merely respect, but know and love, the things with which he deals. There was a time when such a view was itself heresy; "The librarian who reads is lost", somebody once said. Has there ever been any statement made about us so utterly ridiculous as this? It is our sacred, our inviolable duty and obligation to read and read and read; and woe to those who try to prevent us. Our first responsibility is to help others to read, or to find information. Our second, equally important, is to read ourselves: to read intelligently, systematically; to read widely perhaps, but not aimlessly; to read not superficially, but with understanding; to read with sympathy and appreciation and love, not loving all we read, but loving at least the reading of it. And

if you ask what we are to read, the answer is two-fold. First, of course, the books that are part of the natural heritage of the educated mind; and that without any shadow of doubt goes without saying. Secondly, the books that are the special concern of those who use our libraries. For we must be able to talk on equal terms with all of these, from the humblest of them up to the highest, from the very young to the very old, and we can only do this if we know how to read books, as well as how to buy them and issue them. The solution is, not easy perhaps, but straightforward if we work in a special library with a limited subject field. It is fairly straightforward in an academic library. It is much more difficult in a general library or a public library, serving people with every imaginable interest and every imaginable background; in that case the best answer is, I think, some kind of specialization, for the genuine specialist in some branch of knowledge can usually establish contact with specialists in other branches.

And here let me warn you not to pay too much attention to authors who write in *The Times Literary Supplement*,* mournfully proclaiming that books are dying, or indeed dead. Do they argue from their own diminishing royalties? An author in any case is the very last person to consult about this problem. Any good librarian would tell them that books today have never been more alive; that they will still be living and vigorous when the television set has died and the radio is silent. There is no substitute for the book, and there never will be.

The question is, are we to be blind leaders of the blind? If I go to a travel agency to engage a courier for a journey to, say, Timbuctoo, I expect to find a man who knows every mile of the way—a well-travelled man who knows the world. And if I go to a library for a different, but equally joyous venture in the world of books, I expect to find a well-read man who knows his books and his way about them. And if the library is a good one, I sometimes find such a guide; not always, I fear, but sometimes.

Let us not forget therefore that reading is at least half of our job; half of its value and half of its pleasure. Not half of course necessarily in time, but certainly half in importance. How can we know the use of books if we do not use them ourselves? I sometimes think that I could tell a good librarian from a poor one if I could have a look at his own personal collection of books. A man's private library (and I mean the books he has thought worth buying himself,

rather than those he has borrowed or acquired by accident as it were)—a man's private library can be very revealing. That, together with ten minutes' talk, would tell me most of what I needed to know about his ability as a librarian.

Our administrative machinery has, within limits, its uses; so has our bibliographical apparatus. But none of it—I repeat, none of it; neither committees, nor conferences, nor cataloguing codes, nor classification schemes, however marvellous they may be—must stand in the way of our personal knowledge of books. It is this that, in Bacon's phrase, "maketh a full man". What use would an empty man be in a library, even if it were the best equipped, best administered library in the world? For it is so easy—so fatally easy—for the means to become the end; for the key to become more important than the door which it opens; for the signpost to loom larger than the goal to which it points the way. And if you want evidence of our failings in this respect, you may perhaps find it in the weakness of many of our reference libraries and information departments, even in quite large towns—the most important of all departments of the public library, but not unfortunately the one that attracts money and well qualified staff most easily.†

There is a theory abroad today that the sole function, the sole *raison d'être*, of the head of any large library is to extract money for its support and expansion from his committee and from the public; such a man is to be judged by his success or failure as a beggar or borrower of money; in other words, by his success or failure in what people euphemistically call "public relations". Everything else he can leave to his administrative and technical staff, but this over-riding responsibility is entirely his. The whole of his official life is devoted to the sordid arts of money-getting: pleading, cajoling, pestering, threatening, until willingly or unwillingly the hapless donor or ratepayer opens his purse.

Unfortunately there is some truth in this view. Again, it is part of the price we must pay for the system in which we live. But granting this, must we conclude that the man at the head, the money-getter in chief, must be not a librarian at all, but a trained and qualified public relations officer, as some have indeed suggested? This seems to me a jaundiced and cynical view which I, at least, would have difficulty in swallowing. No; the man at the top must be a full man in

† See the article by E. Hargreaves in *LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD*, July, 1958.

* 15th August, 1958.

Bacon's sense, not an empty man. And he must be a full librarian, not an empty one; a librarian who is an educated man in the highest sense of the word, able to mix easily with dukes and doctors and dustmen and to win the confidence of all, and a librarian who knows his own job from the smallest and most elementary piece of routine upwards, and has not forgotten the purpose and significance of any part of it. If the money is available anywhere, it will come to a man of this calibre.

Our own motto, *Ingenia hominum res publica fecit*, taken from Pliny's description of Rome's first public library, may serve to remind us of the truth of all this, and of the purpose behind all we do. Or if you prefer something in English, take those famous and noble lines from *Everyman*: "I will go with thee and be thy guide, In thy most need to go by thy side". That surely is our mission; a high privilege and a very high responsibility which must overshadow, underlie and inspire everything we do in our libraries—all the administrative machinery, all the rules and routines—transmuting them into something purposeful and rewarding. I think it is time that we made a new dedication of ourselves to this great mission of ours.

Make no mistake, it is a very great mission indeed—greater than many laymen yet realize. Thirty-five years' experience of British libraries has taught me to be very proud of the way in which our colleagues in all kinds of libraries—academic, scientific and industrial, as well as public—are understanding this and are bringing new enthusiasm and new ability to its fulfilment. Today we are exporting British librarians and British librarianship to many parts of the world—Australia, Africa, the Middle East, Canada, the Caribbean and even the United States. We may feel that we can ill afford to lose our ablest friends in this way, but we have faith in our heritage, and we know that we can go on producing many more like them. And we believe also that the export of ideas is as important as the export of cars or planes or weapons of war. Unfortunately, when sterling is short, the export of ideas suffers more quickly than exports of a more material sort. And if dollar aid is given to a country such as Pakistan, then it is American ideas and American books which enter the country, rather than British ideas and British books. There is grave need today to increase the export of British books—particularly scientific and technical books—to many parts of the world besides Pakistan. With these books must go British ideas about books and about librarianship: admirable ideas

they are, too, well worth propagating in the face of transatlantic competition. With them, too, we shall, I hope, continue to send out both British librarians and British-trained librarians. This makes it all the more important to foster the work of our own schools of librarianship, to encourage overseas as well as British students to attend them, and to see that they are teaching true librarianship, in which technique, administration, the knowledge of books and an abiding love for books, all in due proportion, have their proper and necessary part.

L.A. ANNUAL REPORT

Arising from questions on the Annual Report, the President agreed that the Council would consider the desirability and possibility of circulating the Minutes of the previous year's A.G.M. with the Annual Report, and a criticism of the memorandum prepared by the University and Research Section on the availability of university theses.

BRIGHTON CONFERENCE PAPERS

The Presidential Address (which appears in this issue), and the text of the Annual Lecture by Lord Birkett, "On the borrowing and owning of books", will be found in the *Proceedings and summaries of discussion at the Brighton Conference*. Copies of these will be available shortly from the Secretary, price 4s., postage 6d., single copies; 35s. 6d. per dozen, postage extra (fractions of a dozen charged as single copies). A limited number only are being printed, and orders should be placed immediately. The 1957 *Proceedings* were out of print within a few weeks of publication.

NORTH WESTERN BRANCH

Council Election

Nominations for the Council (four vacancies) may be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary, Central Library, Peel Park, Salford 5, by two or more members of the Branch before the 31st October, 1958.

STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

As in previous years, arrangements will be made by the Ministry of Education for the award of up to 30 State Scholarships for mature students in 1959. Information regarding the conditions of award should be sought from the local education authority.

Correction in Summer 1958 Pass List. Under Registration Group A Passes should read: *Barden, Miss A. E. (c) Westminster.

Aspects of Library Provision for Undergraduates*

By K. W. HUMPHREYS, B.LITT, M.A., Librarian, The University of Birmingham

WHEN we were considering reading accommodation in the new library at Birmingham, we were greatly exercised in making decisions on the placing of reading rooms. We early decided that we would not depend on one reading room but that we should divide the material by subject: it was not certain, however, which floor each room should occupy. This led us to investigate readers' use of the library—not, I regret to say, by a fully organized survey undertaken by trained sociologists and statisticians, but by the unscientific impressions of members of the library and academic staffs.

Partly as a result of this survey and partly also resulting from a report from a Committee on Liberal Education appointed by the Senate of Birmingham University, I have questioned whether universities in this country are supplying adequately the book needs of their students. There is no doubt that one of the problems is to assess these needs, although perhaps it may be said that in many cases the provision of the appropriate material may not only supply the need, but also, to some extent, dictate it. This is illustrated in a study of the newspaper reading habits of students undertaken in the Department of Social Studies at Durham.† Whilst the authors point out the dangers of drawing sweeping conclusions from test samples by questionnaires, they are satisfied that their results can be taken as reasonably typical of an undergraduate community of a provincial university. The various tables suggest "that coming up to the University and the first year at the University play a decisive role in shaping and widening a student's field of vision while later years tend only to modify his interests". In some ways the most significant feature is that when students were away from the university during the vacation, their experience in term had encouraged them to the important step of purchasing a copy of their favourite papers. The losses and gains by daily and weekly papers will illustrate the

effect which the university can have on new students: the newspapers which lost the greatest number were the *Daily Express*, the *Daily Herald*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Sunday Express* and the *News of the World*, whilst gains were greatest for the *Manchester Guardian*, *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, *The Observer* and the *Sunday Times*. No comparable survey, so far as I know, is available on the reading of books by students.

It will be seen, therefore, that the exposure to the influence of better-class newspapers in Junior Common Rooms can assist the undergraduate in developing a taste for material of a higher quality than he was accustomed to accept. One may postulate with some confidence that, if other reading material is easily available, he may be able to avail himself of it and benefit from the daily knowledge of its presence. The two types of reading matter, however, do not allow of comparable treatment: newspapers lie about in common rooms and can be read by any member of the undergraduate population; books must be placed where their use can be supervised. It is not necessary for an undergraduate to set out with the definite intention of reading a newspaper; he is more likely to look at it because he happens to be resting, taking coffee, waiting for a friend, etc., whilst the borrowing of a book requires a conscious effort on the part of the reader. Time is also an important factor. If the Durham investigators found that almost half of the Arts students referred to lack of time as the chief obstacle to reading newspapers, how much more difficult it may be for the same student to find time to read books on subjects outside his curriculum.

Whilst the provision of daily newspapers can in general be left to student unions, halls of residence and other bodies, the provision of books for undergraduates must be of interest to, if not the immediate concern of, university librarians. I therefore propose to examine the types of collections available and, so far as is practicable, their use.

In the first place, how far do students provide their own books, whether for study or recreation? An article on this subject by Professor Balchin of Swansea, entitled "Bookless students", appeared

* Paper read at a meeting of the University and Research Section of the L.A., 1957.

† S. Moos, A. Laing, A. J. Odber, and P. A. Bromhead. *Newspaper reading by university students*. Durham, 1954.

in *The Observer* for 7th October, 1956. Professor Balchin quotes from the report of the University Grants Committee on University Development 1947-52: "Students", the Committee said, "now tend to buy far fewer books than they did in the past. This is indeed not surprising in view of the increase in the cost of books which has taken place since before the war. We would suggest, nevertheless, that even a small private library is an aim so desirable as to warrant some curtailment of private expenditure in other directions". Professor Balchin then goes on to suggest that the situation is now far worse. "A recent inquiry in Cambridge revealed an average annual *per capita* expenditure of just over £2", whilst "one bookseller in an older centre of learning now sells only 5 per cent of his stock locally". Most librarians will be aware that many undergraduates do not buy books. The Tutor for Women Students at Birmingham tells me that on a number of occasions, in discussing with prospective undergraduates the various financial commitments they must budget for, she has met with surprise, amounting to disbelief, when expenditure on books is mentioned. A number of lecturers and professors have had similar experiences. Perhaps the provision of all textbooks in schools by local authorities has led the freshman to expect that such material will be found for him by the university, and the use of his (often meagre) grant for this kind of purpose is unthinkable. On the other hand, there is some evidence that, given adequate facilities or even perhaps attractive opportunities for book purchasing, the undergraduate will respond. In a letter to *The Observer*, which unfortunately could not be published, a tutor at a theological college, the College of St. Mark and St. John in London, gave details of an inquiry into book purchases by second-year students in 1955-56. Of a hundred students, 2 spent under £3, 13 between £3 and £6, 37 between £6 and £9, 18 between £9 and £12, 16 between £12 and £15, 9 between £15 and £20 and 1 over £20 (4 students did not make any return). Where bookshops have been established either by the university authorities or with their support, the results have been satisfactory. Bookshops have been set up in London, Southampton, Hull, Nottingham and Keele, whilst a small bookshop exists on the Edgbaston site at Birmingham. Reports from all these shops indicate that undergraduates make considerable use of them. At Hull for example, only one part-time assistant was employed in 1948, whereas now there is a staff of three in a shop open between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The mana-

ger finds that most students buy the books recommended by the teaching staff; he estimates that the average annual expenditure per student is more than £2. The bookshops at Southampton and Birmingham are greatly in need of extended premises. At Keele a branch of the Students' Bookshop Ltd. serves only a small closed community, yet I understand it has been financially successful. It is open from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and has a staff of two. Queen Mary College, London, has had a bookshop for about 40 years. It is housed within the College and yet has sufficient trade from students and staff to maintain it. Unless there are scholarly bookshops in the city within walking distance of the university, I suggest that a university should make every effort either to open its own shop or to encourage an existing firm to do so on the campus: the results will, I think, be rewarding for consumers as well as for suppliers.

In reply to the article by Professor Balchin, one of our colleagues wrote a letter, published in the issue of *The Observer* for 14th October, 1956, in which he made it clear that in his opinion the onus for providing students with their textbooks should rest upon the university library, as in many modern universities it is the only source of supply. Whilst I cannot subscribe to this view, it is necessary to consider it in the light of library conditions within a university. At Oxford and Cambridge, in addition to the bookshops where browsing is encouraged, the student has the University Library, a Faculty or Department Library, a College Library, a Union library and the public library. In provincial universities, however, the university library and possibly a departmental library may be all that are available, although in the larger towns the public libraries are used by undergraduates to a very considerable extent—particularly, e.g., in Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and Manchester.

University libraries which must cater for undergraduates and also for research workers find that so much of their expenditure is directed towards the maintenance of periodical subscriptions, binding and research material that excessive duplication of texts cannot, on purely financial grounds, be encouraged. The fact, too, that such texts need to be renewed every few years as new editions appear does not recommend itself to the librarian. Probably most libraries will purchase two copies of texts—one for retention in the library and one available for loan. If more than two copies are purchased, we find in Birmingham that there is an increasing prob-

ability of loss. Other copies may be in departmental collections and also in class libraries: in the case of the former, central library funds may be used; for the latter, departmental or faculty money may be involved.

The decentralization of the library collections might be the subject of another paper some time. Here I shall be able to treat of it only briefly. As I see it, there are two main types of departmental book collections—one being that section of the whole university collection concerned with a particular subject, and the other, a number of reference books and copies of other works duplicating those already in the main library. The latter departmental collection can be of great assistance to the undergraduate and to the librarian, making available additional copies of texts and a ready reference collection. The sectional library is, however, to be discouraged not only from our own administrative point of view, but (even more important) because the undergraduate may be tempted to believe that all he needs is to be found in his department, and as a result does not visit the university library. He misses the opportunities for exposing himself to the literature of subjects concomitant with his own and, above all, to books and periodicals which he might otherwise regard as outside his university life.

I think it is true to say that the administration of the Students' Union in most, if not all, universities is not under the control of the university authorities. For this reason the library in the Union may seem to be outside our terms of reference. I suggest, however, that it can play an important part in a student's life. Only a few Union libraries contain curricular material and they are rarely used for serious reading, although I have found occasionally a student will write his essay there if it is quiet. The most valuable service a Union library fulfils is the provision of extra-curricular reading. Unfortunately it is not usually given the attention which it deserves: in Birmingham, for example, the library is tucked away in an obscure corner of the Union buildings and only £50 is spent on it each year; of this, £15 pays the cost of supervision for two hours daily in term, £10 is spent on periodicals, and the remaining £25 is used for the purchase of new books. It is not, therefore, surprising that less than 10 per cent of the total student population uses the library. Birmingham, however, is better served than a number of universities, for at Manchester, Southampton, Sheffield and Reading there are no library facilities in the Unions.

It is now common practice to provide a library in each university hall of residence. The best examples are probably those at Nottingham, which are the responsibility of the university librarian. A sum of £100 is spent annually on each hostel's library, which is run by the students so far as supervision and control are concerned. The hostels of University College, London, also spend about £100 each year on libraries and in most universities some attempt is made to keep the books in the halls up to date. Except at Nottingham, the staff and students in the hostels normally administer their libraries, although the university librarian may act in an advisory capacity, and even order and process the books before they are sent out to the halls. If a university like Oxford or Cambridge can accommodate most of its students in colleges or halls, then the college library can make provision for a scholarly collection of reference and textbooks. When only a small proportion of students can live in halls, such provision would give the more fortunate student an even greater advantage over his colleagues living in "digs". In most provincial universities, therefore, it seems to me that the librarians of halls should devote their library money to the purchase of reference books and of lighter reading material—good novels, plays, verse, biography, travel, etc. There may be some advantages in processing these books in the university library, so that entries may appear in the catalogue and arrangements be made for the books to be borrowed for the use of non-residents of the halls.

Some mention should perhaps be made here of the means of obtaining books available outside the university. A few private subscription libraries still exist for scholarly purposes, although in some cases their original aim has ceased to be dominant. The normal subscription is generally reduced for student membership. The London Library and smaller, but similar, collections in Birmingham, Leeds and Newcastle can be used by the Arts student for obtaining many of his textbooks; certain specialist libraries, like Lewis's medical book service, can be used by undergraduates in other faculties.

It is to the public libraries, however, that a large number of students go for their extra-curricular reading and also, especially in the large towns, for material relevant to their university work. Whilst I have not been able to obtain much detailed information, I am assured by the librarians of Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow that their reference libraries are used to a very considerable extent by

university members and that the lending department is also well patronized by this section of the community. Students using the Sheffield City Libraries borrow copies of set texts, but do not seem to go much beyond their recommended reading: in the Science and Commerce Library they give the impression of under-estimating the importance of periodical literature. The only statistics of students' use of public libraries I have obtained were supplied by Mr. Hutchings of Leeds Central Library. These suggest that each day in term about 75 undergraduates use some 200 books in the Reference Library: of the books on loan from the Library of Commerce, Science and Technology, about three-quarters were borrowed by students. The Central Lending Library at Leeds has approximately 480 student borrowers and of the books they borrow, one-third are probably for recreational reading.

I was interested to hear from a county librarian that he obtained copies of textbooks for university students living in his area and that they were allowed to retain them for a term or longer if necessary. I do not know how far this practice is common to county libraries but, in the instance I have quoted, a large number of books are made available.

So far I have been mainly concerned with the present state of affairs and not proposed any steps which librarians might take in extending their services to undergraduates. Whilst I think it is probably true to say that most of us would not feel that any considerable proportion of the library's annual grant should be spent in purchasing large numbers of student textbooks, we might consider the example of the "reserve" collection to be found in American university libraries. I think this type of material was originally placed together for students pursuing courses with recommended reading from a large number of texts, but now it often includes general textbooks. Students usually pay a small sum per hour, or for a portion of a day, for the use of these books, and the income from borrowing fees is used for additions and replacements for the collection.

The provision within the university library for extra-curricular reading is, I find, surprisingly good. Many university librarians spend considerable sums on subjects not falling within the scope of teaching departments and a number purchase books intended for recreational reading. Dr. Sharp, for example, informs me that at Edinburgh a representative selection of contemporary literature, including fiction, is bought with this intention. A number of librarians have special

funds for this purpose, but where no allocated funds are available, fines, subscriptions, and discount repayments are set aside for the purchase of this material. Only one librarian said, "We do not provide or intend to provide material for extra-curricular reading".

At Edinburgh, the University Library pays a subscription of £42 per annum to Douglas & Foulis for 100 books, of which four are exchanged weekly for four fresh choices. The books obtained from this are light reading—romances, detective novels and popular non-fiction. Whilst this has been worth doing at Edinburgh since 1908, Durham paid a subscription for two years for a similar service and found that students made so little use of the books that the cost of subscription was instead diverted to the purchase of duplicate texts.

Apart from the Shaw Library at the London School of Economics and the R. C. Trevelyan Library at Birkbeck College, London, there seems to be no collection within a university library comparable with the "browsing rooms" in America. Mr. Page hopes to provide a "contemporary literature and thought" collection in the extension to the Brotherton Library and a similar arrangement may be possible at Birmingham. The Shaw Library, although housed outside the main library, has a full-time superintendent who is a member of Mr. Woledge's staff: it exists for recreational reading and provides also periodicals and gramophone records. The Trevelyan Library is a collection of English literary material used by undergraduates for their non-curricular reading. No funds are available for keeping the books up to date.

It is very difficult to assess how much use is made of the various facilities available to undergraduates. A survey is at present being conducted on students' use of the University Library at Leeds, but it is too early yet to obtain any results. The figures I quoted for the Union Library at Birmingham (i.e., less than one-tenth student use) may be unusual, but as I have not received any comparable information from other Unions, I can only quote it as an example. Libraries in halls are very well used, as may be expected, and university libraries at certain hours are full everywhere. There is an increasing demand for the later opening of libraries and evidence that advantage is taken of such extension of working hours.

In most places, I should say that provision is adequate or good, but the undergraduate does not enjoy his facilities to the utmost. Many take jobs in the vacation and do little reading during

that period, so that only in term are they devoting all their time to study. The results of an investigation of a students' normal day were analysed a few years ago by Dr. Doris Rich, at that time a Research Fellow at Birmingham.* She found that the average student (i.e., an average of all students questioned) had a working day of 6½ hours and an average working week of 35½ hours. The hardest workers were physicists with 7·41 daily hours, and the laziest, modern language students with 4·93 daily hours. The science student had about 4 hours organized work and the arts student between 2 and 2½ hours. Dr. Rich made an analysis of the types of unorganized work, to find that each day an arts student spent about 1½ hours reading and a scientist about ½ hour. At this rate, according to figures quoted by Professor Mace,† an arts student would read

about 100 books, each of approximately 100,000 words, during a year and a science student about 30, if the rate remained constant throughout the year.

No figures are given by Dr. Rich for extra-curricular reading but the 4½ hours of the day which were unaccounted for were taken up in going to cinemas, theatres, visiting friends and relations, listening to the radio, having an evening meal, etc., so that a very small fraction of the twenty-four hours seems to be spent in general reading. I indicated earlier in this paper that lack of time was a reason given for not reading newspapers—how much more will it affect the reading of books!

Finally, I hope I have given sufficient indication of the fact that, whilst a great deal has already been done by active librarians in the provision of reading facilities for undergraduates, a great deal remains still to be done—perhaps not least in attracting the attention of students to the resources which are available.

* Doris Rich. "The Student Survey", *University of Birmingham Gazette*, v. 5, 1952, pp. 56-59.

† C. A. Mace. "Reading habits of today", *Adult Education*, v. 12, 1939-40, pp. 23-24.

The Libraries of the Institute of Jamaica

By MARY A. BREBNER, F.L.A., Librarian, Institute of Jamaica

ON looking back over the years, it is astonishing to realize that for a very long time the Institute of Jamaica was the main source of reading material for the whole of the Island. Over the last ten years, however, a very fine library has been established at the University College of the West Indies, and an attractive central public library and a number of centres have been set up by the Jamaica Library Service in each of the fourteen parishes into which Jamaica is divided. Consequently, the Institute is concentrating more on its reference and research functions, although books are lent to members in any part of the Island.

Constituted during the Governorship of Sir Anthony Musgrave in 1879, the Institute was founded for the following purposes: to establish a Library, Reading Room and Museum, and to provide for the reading of papers and delivery of lectures, the holding of examinations on subjects connected with literature, science and art, and exhibitions illustrative of the industries of Jamaica. This law transferred to the Institute the libraries of the House of Assembly and the old

Legislative Council, and the Museum of the Royal Society of Arts and Agriculture. The library of the Kingston Athenaeum was transferred to the Institute in 1897. The building was seriously damaged in the Great Earthquake of 1907 and a new structure in reinforced brick and concrete was opened in January, 1912.

The Institute of Jamaica Law of 1909 provides for a Board of twelve Governors, eight nominated by the Governor of the island, four of whom must be Members of the House of Representatives, and the remaining four elected by members of the Institute. By far the larger part of the annual budget is obtained from a Government grant, a small proportion coming from members' subscriptions and from donations.

The Institute comprises a General Library, West India Reference Library, Science Library, two Junior Centres, a Museum, Art Gallery, Lecture Hall, a School of Arts and Crafts; it is also responsible for the Colonial Archives at Spanish Town, a former capital of Jamaica thirteen miles from Kingston. There is, too, a small zoo of Caribbean animals and birds in the



The Institute of Jamaica

garden, but this is shortly to be removed to a more suitable location in the Hope Botanical Gardens.

The General Library is situated on the ground floor of the main building and contains a stock of 30,000 volumes for home reading, classified according to the Dewey Decimal system, and a representative selection of newspapers and periodicals. A comprehensive reference section has been built up and is expanding rapidly, and very shortly two special libraries are to be housed in the General Library. These are the Library of the United States Information Service, consisting of American books and periodicals, and a music library in memory of the late Chairman of the Board of Governors. The Institute is a repository for publications of the United Nations Organization and these are filed permanently. Lists of recent additions to stock are issued quarterly, and an annotated list of new reference books is published in the main newspaper.

The upper floor of the building contains a treasure-house of books and other items on the Caribbean area, with particular emphasis on

Jamaica. Besides topographical and historical material embracing the discovery of the New World, the coming of the Spaniards and the English, piracy, slavery and emancipation, the post-emancipation period culminating in the Federation and self-government movements, there are books on the religion and literature of the area, on the economic and social aspects, and indeed any item with a bearing on the Caribbean is eagerly sought.

Although material on the British West Indies predominates, there are considerable collections on the non-British Caribbean countries—Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, the French and Dutch islands, Central America, the Guianas, Colombia and Venezuela—and a fairly large section on West Africa forms a background to the history of the West Indies and the influence of African culture in these islands.

Among the many valuable and interesting books in the collection are:

Sir Hans Sloane's *Voyage to the Islands Madera, Barbadoes, Nieves, St. Christophers and Jamaica*, published 1707.

J. B. Kidd's *Views of Jamaica*, published 1840.

James Hakewill's *A Picturesque Tour of the Island of Jamaica from drawings made in the years 1820 and 1821*.

A fairly complete set of Jamaica Almanacks from 1677.

A set of Calendars of State Papers, Colonial Series, America and West Indies, covering the years 1574-1736.

The Journals of Assembly from 1663-1826, continued by the Votes of Assembly.

The Diary of Enos Nuttall, Archbishop of the West Indies, covering the years 1866-1916.

The books, pamphlets, newspapers, periodicals, manuscripts, maps, plans, engravings, portraits and clippings form a priceless collection, and there are, in addition, the Colonial Archives housed at Spanish Town which are a rich source of research material—Records of the Court of Vice-Admiralty, the Court of Chancery and the Grand Court, together with Tax Rolls, Colonial Despatches, Vestry Minutes and miscellaneous documents and letters.

The Dewey Decimal System is the classification scheme in use and the classification and cataloguing of the books on Jamaica have been completed, but a great deal of work has still to be done on a large number of books covering other territories.

A bibliography of Jamaica entitled *Bibliographia Jamaicensis*, compiled by Frank Cundall, was published in 1902 and a Supplement to this in 1908, while *A Bibliography of the West Indies (excluding Jamaica)* by the same compiler appeared in 1909. The library is responsible for the *Bibliography of Jamaica* which is included each year in the *Handbook of Jamaica* and in the *Annual report on Jamaica*, both of these publications being printed by the Government Printing Office, Kingston. Last year a *Select list of works on West Indian Federation*, compiled by the Deputy Librarian, was issued to coincide with the first meeting of the Standing Federation Committee, and has been widely distributed. There are several printed guides to the library's collections, but all of these require revision. Card indexes to maps, prints, photographs, clippings and deeds are being compiled, and an index to the principal newspaper is maintained.

The Science Library is a collection of over 7,000 volumes, 4,000 pamphlets and 165 current periodicals on natural history, geology, archaeology and allied subjects for the use of both the Science Museum staff and the general public. Two very valuable works in the library are Sander's 5-volume compilation on orchids entitled *Reichenbachia*, and *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons*, by Cuvier and Valenciennes, which covers 22 volumes.

Over the past eight years the museum has developed one of the most important collections of plants in the area. Much research is in progress, not only by the Institute staff but by an increasing number of visitors from abroad who sometimes spend many months working here. Mr. William Stearn of the Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), spent five months in Jamaica during 1956 preparing material for the completion of a series of books to be published by the British Museum. The Institute recently purchased a set of the Gray Herbarium Card Index, comprising 25,000 cards, published by the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University and providing basic bibliographical information on every plant described in the Western Hemisphere since 1885.

1,500 of the most-used books and all current journals are to be found in the Reading Room, while the remainder are located in the stacks directly below. A large number of journals, reports, monographs and pamphlets are received by exchanging Institute publications—reports, bulletins and museum separates—for those published by institutions abroad.

The two Junior Centres cater for young people, one centre being situated opposite the main Institute building and the other in a residential suburb. In each case, the library is located on the ground floor, while the upper floor is set aside for story-hours, talks, art hobby classes and other group activities.

The library staff is responsible to the Director of the Institute and, for the adult libraries, comprises the librarian, deputy librarian, two assistant librarians and twelve assistants, while the Junior Centres are staffed by a supervisor and three assistants. A staff training programme is in operation both for in-service training and for examination purposes, and although results have been good, a great deal has still to be accomplished.

The most pressing requirement for the libraries is that of space, especially in the West India Reference Library, and plans have been made for a new fire-proof building to house this valuable collection.

The Institute co-operates with all other libraries in Jamaica in various ways, and we look forward eagerly to the time when there will be sufficient space in which to house each Department properly and an adequate number of qualified staff. Only then can the libraries of the Institute fulfil their main function of making their contents easily accessible to all who wish to use them.

Authors Who Died in 1957

With Some Notes on Dorothy M. Richardson, Wyndham Lewis and Joyce Cary

By ENID ROBOTHAM, B.A., F.L.A.

PERHAPS authors have never received their due meed of fame, for even Thackeray's name was not as well known in his lifetime as one would have expected. In our own day, some people associate "E. M. Forster" with a *History of England* or a *Life of Dickens* instead of with *A Passage to India* or *Howards End*. Mr. J. B. Priestley, in his latest volume of collected essays, *Thoughts in the wilderness*, has pointed out in what low esteem literature is held today.

"Any television mountebank is now more important than any poet, novelist, dramatist. . . . How many authors, composers, painters, architects under 50 years of age, are known to the big public?" The latter "has only so much attention to spare, and if it is concentrating most of it on blown-up T.V. celebrities, who have created nothing and represent nothing, then other persons, with a better claim to the country's respect, will probably be neglected. . . . If the whole Council of the Society of Authors dropped dead next week . . . the news, unless we had all been poisoned, would not make the front page."

How true is this of the popular newspapers and how far is Mr. Priestley exaggerating for the sake of effect? Certainly no author's death was reported on the front page of my morning paper during 1957, unless one counts M. Herriot. Three times Prime Minister of France, he was given two sentences, though the fact that he was also a man of letters was ignored. In 1958 James Barke and Charles Morgan were accorded more favourable treatment. But last year, if the deaths of A. E. Coppard, Frank Tilsley or Michael Sadleir were mentioned at all in my paper, I missed them. Of the others—all on inside pages—John Middleton Murry got one sentence, Dorothy M. Richardson two, the second sentence reading, "She was eighty-four", P. J. Wyndham Lewis a couple of paragraphs and Mr. Joyce Cary five short paragraphs measuring nearly four inches, single column. Owing to his final illness having a "human interest" angle, Mr. Cary was granted more space than his fellow-authors, though not as much as film star Humphrey Bogart. The poet, Roy Campbell, who was killed in a motor accident, got more attention, one suspects, than he would have done if he had died in his bed (unless of a rare disease).

Professor Gilbert Murray was the only man of

letters to die in 1957 who got really adequate attention. But, of course, he was more than a writer; he was a great man, in a class by himself. Even he, however, did not get on to the front page, as the news of his death was first released in the evening papers of Monday, 20th May.

As probably 70 per cent of public library borrowers are readers of popular newspapers, the publicity these latter give to authors is of some importance in maintaining or reviving interest in their work. Generally speaking, judging by the number of issues, death creates a renewal of interest in an author's books, to be followed frequently by neglect. This is not always so. Last year a single copy of *Stephen Hero* by James Joyce, who died as long ago as 1941, went out 21 times in seven months—a performance which the latest best-seller could scarcely surpass (though, of course, the number of copies possessed by the library is relevant here).

The name of Dorothy M. Richardson is one of the most important in the history of the twentieth-century English novel, yet her death was largely ignored. Perhaps in a world that is still dominated by men, an essentially feminine author, such as she was, is apt to receive less than her fair share of attention. At any rate, of the four serious weekly or monthly reviews that I buy, not one as much as mentioned her. Wyndham Lewis was dealt with in all four journals, Joyce Cary in two, as well as being the subject of an appreciative talk by Helen Gardner on the B.B.C. Home Service, Roy Campbell and Middleton Murry in one. Not until 30th November was Miss Richardson mentioned on the wireless when Pamela Hansford Johnson, speaking on "The disappearance of sensibility", dismissed her, along with Virginia Woolf and James Joyce, as a baneful influence, until ten years ago, in creating a gulf between the serious and the popular novel.

Wyndham Lewis was as masculine a writer as Dorothy Richardson was feminine, while Cary might be said to have elements of both. All three in their different ways possessed great originality, Lewis in the inventiveness of his imagination, Miss Richardson in pioneering the technique of the "stream of consciousness" novel, Cary in the

unique method of presenting a story successively through the eyes of each of the three main protagonists. Miss Gardner described him as one of the most original novelists in Britain in the last 20 years, though without committing herself to an assessment of his permanent value.

Likewise, none of these writers offered their wares to the book-reading public in their teens or early twenties, as happens so often nowadays. The earliest work of Lewis's recorded in the select bibliography at the end of the National Book League pamphlet is the review *Blast* (1914) when he was 30 (though his first story, *The Pole*, appeared in the *English Review* in 1909). Miss Richardson was about 42 in 1915 when *Pointed roofs*, the first "chapter" of *Pilgrimage*, was published. And Mr. Cary was 43 when his first novel, *Aissa Saved*, came out in 1932.

They had also this in common, that they were none of them best-sellers. Cary's novels sold an average of 20,000 copies; Miss Richardson's books were virtually unread at the end of her life. Vol. 1 of *Pilgrimage* (Dent & Cresset Press, 1938) in my public library was issued four times in 1955, twice in 1956 and 6 times in 1957, five of them being after her death in June. In the autobiographical *Rude assignment* (Hutchinson, 1950), itself issued only 3 times in the last 14 months, Lewis gives vent to the bitterness of the unread intellectual, which suggests that his sales were not large. *The art of being ruled* (Chatto, 1926), added to the library in 1944, had not used up one whole date label in 13 years, going out a total of 23 times from 2nd March 1944 to 28th September, 1957. During 6 of the intervening years it failed to leave the shelves even once, though it was not a duplicate.

Modern literary histories have assessed the relative importance of these novelists differently. Mr. R. A. Scott-James in *Fifty years of English literature, 1900-1950* (Longmans, 1951) devoted five pages to Richardson, one page to Lewis and only six lines to Cary. On the other hand, G. S. Fraser's enthusiasm for Lewis is evident in the 19 references to him in *The modern writer and his world*. Miss Richardson is mentioned once; Cary, not at all.

Many are the authors included by the British Council and National Book League in the series "Writers and their work", but the author of *Pilgrimage* is not among them. The pamphlet on Cary is by Walter Allen and that on Lewis by E. W. F. Tomlin.

A long appreciative essay on Dorothy Richardson occurs in Leon Edel's *The psychological novel, 1900-1950* (Hart-Davis, 1955, 9s. 6d.) in

the chapter on "The reader's vision". Even he, however, found it difficult to enter into the mind of an adolescent girl. "The author was involving me in a world of chirping females, and I had to force myself to absorb the contents of each page. The heroine struck me as immature and wholly without interest." He did not feel really at home until Pastor Lahmann came on the scene and through Miriam's angle of vision of the pastor, Mr. Edel "finally entered the book. She had made me aware of him, and it was with him I could identify myself." This record of a woman's point of view may well be enjoyed more by her own sex than by men. Mr. Edel cites women poets and novelists who had read *Pilgrimage* with great excitement and enrichment. "They can float on the stream of consciousness seeing only what is in the stream at a given moment without the need to look behind to see what has gone before or to know the direction that is being taken." A man perhaps needs first to explore the content of the novel and then to re-read, as Mr. Edel suggests. He considers her style "improved" in the later volumes, though some readers may well prefer the early style of *Pointed roofs* and *Backwater* to the more involved pattern of *Dimple Hill* and the Foreword to the 1938 collected edition, which might put them off reading the book and should preferably be left to the end.

Walter Allen, in his study of *The English novel* (Phoenix, 1954, 21s.), asks "what is the significance of it all, and what has it all amounted to?" It is a matter of opinion, but to some it has amounted to rather more than any novel published in Britain in the last 20 years. At any rate, those contemporaries who dislike the modern life depicted in the novel of today and who, therefore, tend to go back for their reading to the world of Dickens, of Trollope, of Mrs. Henry Wood might at least try accompanying Miriam Henderson with her Saratoga trunk to Hanover even if they never reach *Dimple Hill*, the 12th and last volume.

ESDAILE MEMORIAL FUND

Donations are gratefully acknowledged from: L. L. Ardern; Miss M. D. Liggett; Miss H. Mews; Miss H. J. Barker; Miss A. C. Percival; Miss L. R. Stone; E. Sydney; Miss M. Tremaine; J. E. Walker.

Total sum received to 17th September, £201 12s. 0d., plus \$31.00.

Correction to Personal Members' List in 1958 Year Book

Miss I. McKay, A.L.A., is no longer Librarian of Smith, Kline and French Laboratories (formerly Menley and James, Ltd.) of 120 Coldharbour Lane, S.E.3, but is Librarian of the Fire Officers' Committee, Fire Protection Association, 15 Queen Street, E.C.4.

The Library Association

Election of Council

Notice is hereby given that:

- (i) Voting papers will be issued on 24th October, 1958.
- (ii) No voting papers will be sent to members whose subscriptions have not been paid on, or before 1st July, 1958.
- (iii) If a qualified voter does not receive his voting paper, he must apply for one within a week of the date of issue of the voting papers, after which no voting paper will be issued.

Annual General Meeting

The 75th Annual Meeting of Members of the Library Association was held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 24th September, 1958, in the Dome, Brighton, the President, Professor Raymond Irwin, being in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting held in the Royal Hall, Harrogate, on the 18th September, 1957, were taken as read and signed.

The report of the Scrutineers on the result of the Annual Election of Council for 1958 was received. (This appeared on page 406 of the December, 1957, RECORD.)

The Annual Report of the Council for the year 1957 was received, and the report of the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Auditors were approved.

The following motion was moved by Councillor E. A. Chambers representing the Penge Urban District Council, and seconded by Mr. H. G. T. Christopher (Penge):

"That whilst approving the general content of the Memorandum of Evidence submitted to the Committee appointed by the Minister of Education to consider the structure of the Public Library Service in England and Wales, and particularly in this context the references therein that the ability to provide a satisfactory and efficient library service cannot practicably be measured by the population or financial resources of any particular Authority, this Annual General Meeting of the Library Association opposes any direct reference in the Memorandum (as at present contained in sections 21 and 24) which would indicate in any way the minimum annual expenditure necessary or the size of a district in terms of population which would be necessary for the provision of such a satisfactory and efficient library service, and that accordingly the Memorandum of Evidence be amended:

- (a) By the deletion in section 21 of the first two paragraphs from the words 'A most relevant considera-

tion' up to and including the words 'binding and non-book material of at least £3,000'.

- (b) By the deletion in section 24 of the words 'Serving populations below 40,000'.
and that the Secretary of this Association do forthwith send a copy of this resolution to the Committee on Public Libraries in England and Wales accordingly."

Twenty members, under Byelaw D.7, demanded that the vote be taken by ballot. The ballot was 439 for, 529 against, and the motion was declared not carried.

Messrs. S. J. Butcher and A. H. Chaplin were re-elected Honorary Auditors for the year 1958 and thanked for their services in the past year.

An invitation by Councillor T. J. Reeves Taylor, Chairman of the Library and Art Committee, on behalf of the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of Torquay, to hold the next Annual Conference in Torquay from the 21st to the 25th September, 1959, was accepted.

The Chairman moved that the thanks of the Association be expressed to the Mayor and Corporation of the County Borough of Brighton, and to all those who have facilitated the work of the Conference.

COUNTY LIBRARIES SECTION

Election of Committee

Chairman: A. Shaw Wright; Hon. Treasurer: Glyn Davies; Hon. Secretary: H. D. Budge.

Representatives for England: Miss G. Jones, Miss O. S. Newman, E. J. Coombe, Miss L. V. Paulin, K. Stockham, J. N. Harris, Miss F. E. Cook, R. F. Ashby, S. G. Berri-man.

Representatives for Scotland: J. Brindle, Miss E. A. Liversidge.

Representatives for Wales: H. Turner Evans, E. R. Luke.

Representative for N. Ireland: H. G. Mills.

SUBJECT BOOKLISTS RECENTLY ISSUED BY BRITISH LIBRARIES

Just jazz. Bethnal Green P.L.

What are you going to be? A guide to books about careers. Brentford and Chiswick P.L.

A select list of books on winter sport. Carlisle P.L.

A select list of books on photography. Carlisle P.L.

Technical and Arts Bulletin No. 28. Scientific manuals: books added since April, 1956. Chelmsford P.L.

Medical library: books and periodicals in stock. Kingston upon Hull P.L.

Middle East. Newcastle P.L.

The Church of England. Paddington P.L.

Careers. Paddington P.L.

A booklist on French literature from the Renaissance to the Twentieth Century. Surrey Co.L.

Britain's roads: past, present and future. Surrey Co.L.

Notes on Out-of-Print Books

One of the titles reported to London and Home Counties Branch some time ago in an enquiry concerning books frequently requested through the Metropolitan Joint Fiction Reserve Scheme was Ibanez's *Blood and sand*. First approaches were unsuccessful but I now note that a paperback is available in Elek Books' Bestseller Library at 3s. 6d.

It was mentioned in the May 1958 "Notes" that negotiations had commenced on several titles suggested by S.E.R.L.S. and thinly represented in inter-loan agencies. Reports have since been given on all but two of these titles—Pollard's *History of firearms* and a novel by J. J. Abraham, *The night nurse*. There is no hope of new editions of these and consequently existing copies should be preserved and advantage taken of any second-hand reports to obtain more.

Following correspondence with us, Neville Spearman have re-issued *Wanderings of an elephant hunter*, by W. D. M. Bell, at 25s. 0d.

Edmund Ward have informed me that their new edition of Ruskin's *King of the golden river* (see these "Notes", October, 1957) is expected in October, 1958, at 10s. 6d. It will be a demy octavo of 64 pages with full colour frontispiece and 21 line drawings by Charles Stewart.

Enquiries are currently being made in the hope of re-introducing novels by Robert Graves.

Concerning the O.P. titles of F. Scott Fitzgerald (May, 1958, "Notes", refer), the Bodley Head are at present preparing a new edition. Due for October publication are *Afternoon of an author* 18s. 0d., and *The Bodley Head Scott Fitzgerald*, 20s. 0d. The former contains fourteen short stories and six essays, all previously uncollected. The latter contains *The great Gatsby*, *The last tycoon*, three short stories and the three sections of *The crack-up*, Fitzgerald's account of his breakdown. Both books will be narrow crown octavo.

Occasional enquiries for Washington Irving's *The Alhambra* have not justified a new edition, but Bailey Bros. & Swinfen report that this title can be imported from the U.S.A., price 11s. 6d. from Macmillan of New York.

I am very pleased to report that the importation difficulties concerning St. Exupéry's *Night flight* (originally noted in these columns November, 1957) have been overcome. It will be recalled that we intended arranging for copies of this paperback to be pre-bound prior to distribution. In view of the unavoidable delay, however, copies will now be despatched unbound as soon as

available, since some requests for them have recently been received. Bailey Bros. & Swinfen have ordered a few spare copies in case some librarians missed the original announcement.

The annual report of Mr. Elliott of Islington was reviewed in the *Daily Telegraph* of 7th August under the title "Classics in danger" and dealt with the O.P. problem. Negotiations were immediately commenced with publishers for the various titles with the following results to date:

- (1) Cape report that for some time they have been negotiating with a reprint house issuing paper-covered editions and have already arranged for the following Sinclair Lewis titles to be sub-leased to them: *Babbitt*, *Cass Timberlane*, *Elmer Gantry*, *Kingsblood Royal*, *Main Street*, *Martin Arrowsmith* and *Ann Vickers*. In fact, *Cass Timberlane* and *Kingsblood Royal* have recently appeared in this form. The other Lewis titles are also under consideration and many of them will probably be reprinted, not necessarily in paper editions. The possibility of some sheets from each paper edition being allocated for preparation in library bindings is being discussed.
- (2) Heinemann are re-issuing Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward Angel* on 15th September, 21s. 0d. On the same date will also appear *The Selected Letters of Thomas Wolfe* at 25s. 0d.
- (3) Due to poor support of the titles originally, Hamish Hamilton recently turned over the rights of Balzac's *Cousin Bette* and *Cousin Pons* to the Modern Library, New York. The titles may not appear for some time, but I am at present endeavouring to obtain further information. When they do appear, there may again be Customs difficulties over the importation of fiction, as were experienced with *Night flight*. The present regulations, although welcome in preventing the importation of pornography and trash, are unwelcome in denying importation of standard authors. This seems to be a problem requiring further evidence for reasonable negotiation at a later date.
- (4) Eyre & Spottiswoode have delayed a new edition of Robert Penn Warren's *All the king's men* only because of the rising cost of printing. However, a way has been found round this problem and the book is expected to re-appear in the first half of 1959. Another of the author's novels is under consideration for re-issue.
- (5) There is little prospect at the present time of a new edition of *Spoils of Poynton* by Henry James.
- (6) Dent confirm my information that Fielding's *Amelia* (2 vols., 852-3, 5s. 6d. each) and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (616, 5s. 6d.) are still in print in Everyman's Library. The firm also state they hope to re-issue Balzac's *Country doctor* within the next year or two. They also accepted for "short-list" consideration a further suggestion from me which seemed suitable for E.M.L. publication.
- (7) Readers may already have seen the letter in the *Bookseller* of 30th August, from Mr. W. H. S. Whitehouse of the Library Suppliers' Group of the Booksellers' Association, offering to publish a title at our suggestion. A suitable reply has been sent to the *Bookseller* for early publication and suggestions will shortly be discussed by London and Home Counties Branch Committee. We are at present corresponding with Mr. Whitehouse.

Perhaps the foregoing may suffice for a first report! Some further negotiations will be undertaken shortly.

I have received information from The Bodley Head that in November they are re-issuing one of Andre Maurois' well-known biographies, *Chateaubriand*. This was first published in 1938 and has been O.P. for some years. It will be demy octavo, 360 pages, illustrated, 25s. 0d.

UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS

Finally, further to my previous notes on the services of University Microfilms, Mrs. West has since informed me that the problem of the vertical black line on the outer edge of each page has been practically overcome and these lines will be more or less non-existent in future. Following up my suggestion that Xerox copies of popular fiction and children's books intended for heavy lending use might profitably have a better paper, Mrs. West says that in America their associates already supply this when required, namely Alpha Cellulose. This particular paper is not available in this country, but University Microfilms are exploring the possibility of using a similar alternative.

NORMAN TOMLINSON

Reference Libraries

Union Lists of Periodicals

Now that the great *British union-catalogue of periodicals* has been with us long enough for its merits and faults to be discovered, some notes on it may be opportune. It hardly needs to be said that it is a stupendous undertaking, larger than any previous list, and presenting us with a mass of bibliographical information; one part of its use as a bibliography that does not seem to have been noted elsewhere is the listing of cumulated indexes, thus to some extent superseding Haskell. The notes that follow should not be taken as adverse criticism; they are intended rather as warnings to be observed in its use, since so large a work necessarily has limitations. Mr. Stewart reminds us that Bucop can only be as accurate and complete as the entries submitted by contributing libraries.

The outstanding contributor is, of course, the British Museum, and the catalogue would be of value if only as a new edition of the "P.P." volumes of the Museum's catalogue; there is a high proportion of entries for which the B.M. is the only location, and many of these titles are given open dates indicating that they are still

published, because the Museum has reported thus; in some cases the files reported by other (especially copyright) libraries indicate the cessation, e.g., *Who's who in filmland* is given as 1928-, although the other two locations both report 1928-31, and *Perils of premature burial* [delightful title] 1905-, with the Bodleian claiming 1905-14.

It should also be emphasized that some libraries (including my own) reported only selected items, so that Bucop should never be regarded as giving complete coverage of the libraries listed inside the cover; only seven public libraries, for instance, report *Library science abstracts*, although the union list of *Reference books and bibliographies* gives 60 locations for London alone. Although the definition of "periodical" is clearly stated by the editor, some libraries have been more generous than others in their reports; some have even listed annuals which they do not take regularly, with the unfortunate result that Ipswich, for example, falsely appears to have stopped buying them in 1948 (see the entries for *Let's halt awhile*, *Medical directory*, *Municipal year book*, *Newspaper press directory*, *Public schools year book*), and Sheffield is still struggling along with the 1935 *Public schools year book*. Such examples are so obviously absurd that a librarian would know how to interpret them, but the same thing may happen with less well-known titles. A warning should also be given that a few titles that are not periodicals have crept in, with the result that the locations appear deceptively few (e.g., *Index bibliographicus*, *Bibliography of British history*, *Burlington magazine monographs*).

May I emphasize again that these faults are but slight in proportion to the value of this mammoth work, and lest some librarians are thinking that it is of use to large libraries only, let me say that several reference librarians of small libraries (reference stock around 7,000-8,000) have told me how surprisingly useful it has been to them. May I also appeal for support for the supplement; it is a wonderful opportunity to report new and additional material, and Mr. Stewart would be particularly pleased to have any definite information on the final dates of titles left "open" in Bucop.

The American *Union list of serials* has been surpassed in size by Bucop, but if the plans outlined in *A permanent program for the union list of serials* (Washington, 1957) come to fruition, it will list some 500,000 titles (including special materials such as newspapers, which would be listed separately). An interesting feature of the project

is the collection of locations for much material which would appear only in subsidiary lists confined to special subjects, forms or regions. An example of this type of union list already published is *Ward's Index and finding list of serials . . . 1789-1832* (see "Reference Libraries" April and August, 1954), which supplements Bucop by giving American holdings, some British libraries not in Bucop, and newspaper offices; I discovered an interesting example of its value the other day in looking for the *Stamford mercury*, which is of importance as one of the oldest newspapers still published. Bucop gives only two odd copies in the Bodleian; Ward, in addition to American holdings, locates sets in three libraries not covered by Bucop (Grimsby, Lincoln, and the London Library), a file at the newspaper's own offices, and surprisingly a run from 1789 at the British Museum—can it be that the B.M. did not report it because it is still current and was, therefore, regarded as a post-1800 newspaper?

University librarians have been active in supplementing Bucop; SCOUNL (Standing Conference of National and University Libraries) publishes a regular *Foreign periodicals bulletin* (3s. 6d. p.a., November, 1956, to date), which lists titles available for loan and not already listed in Bucop or the *World list of scientific periodicals*, and a confusingly similar body, SCOLLUL, (Standing Conference of Librarians of Libraries of the University of London) has produced a supplement for the use of its members.

A special subject list compiled by Social Sciences Documentation is *Survey of criminological journals* (with the July issue of the *British journal of delinquency*, offprints 1s.). This useful 8-page list gives locations for 53 periodicals in four London libraries, and for some 200 Commonwealth and foreign official report series in three London libraries.

Indexes and Abstracts of Periodicals

Those of us who make much use of Poole's *Index to periodical literature* know that it has some infuriating features; it indexes by volume number and not year, and the volume numbers are often those assigned by the indexing library and not those of the publisher. We can now identify Poole's references more exactly with the aid of *Poole's index date and volume key* (A.C.R.L., 1957, \$1.50), which tabulates the 479 periodicals; it may be borrowed from Chaucer House Library.

Poole covers most of the nineteenth century for us, and H. W. Wilson ventured part of a more

thorough and more scientific index, although covering only 51 titles (*Nineteenth century readers' guide to periodical literature, 1890-1899*). Professor Powell Stewart, of the University of Texas, was bold enough to initiate a project to index British eighteenth-century newspapers and periodicals, and a trial run for the year 1700 was printed by Readex Microprint; it runs to 550 "pages" on 6 Microprint cards. This was not intended to be published as a usable index, but was merely part of the report of an experiment, and as such it is an interesting example of the use of microfilm, since films of the periodicals were sent to indexers reel by reel. We await with much interest the index for 1701-10, which will benefit from the mistakes of the 1700 project.

Some students still do not seem to have heard of the change in *Industrial arts index*, so perhaps I should note briefly that from January, 1958, it split into *Applied science and technology index*, covering 199 periodicals, and *Business periodicals index*, covering 120; these are both sold on Wilson's service basis, the minimum subscription being £9 for the first and £7 10s. for the second. This is part of the revision of Wilson indexes to meet the wishes of users, of which an earlier example was the change of scope of the *International index* to cover the social sciences and humanities.

Another belated note for the record: *The Times* index is published every two months from January/February, 1957, and has been appearing some eight weeks after the end of each two-month period; this is a considerable improvement on the quarterly issues, but will deter retrospective searching for more than a short period—oh, for a cumulated index! How many librarians have noticed that with the March/April, 1957, volume the title changed to *Index to the Times*? The price remains at 12 guineas a year.

I am indebted to Dr. Woodbridge (Murray State College, Kentucky) for introducing me to a new journal that might well justify support from British libraries: *Abstracts of English studies* started monthly publication in January and covers about 2,000 articles a year in 250 periodicals. Its field is English and American language and literature (including folklore), and its range includes *Encounter*, *T.L.S.*, *Notes and queries*, *Esquire*, and the *Twentieth century*. The abstracts vary from a few lines to half an octavo page, and production by offset-litho has kept the subscription down to a very reasonable \$4 a year (123 W. Hellems, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado). At present the indexing is not full enough, but when this is remedied, *A.E.S.* should

be of value in reference libraries, most of which file a fair number of the titles covered. I understand that the financial difficulties inherent in this type of publication have now been solved, and the editors will now be able to cover more of the estimated 3,500 articles published in this field each year; coverage has already been extended to French and Russian journals, and a detailed index will be published at the end of the year.

Lists of Periodicals

The United Nations Library at Geneva has issued an *Analysis of material published regularly in official gazettes*; this lists regular features other than those relating to law and legislation. It is interesting to see the variety of information that some countries publish, ranging from catalogues of government publications to weather reports and from parliamentary debates to wholesale and retail prices. A useful supplement is the indexing in the Colonial Office Library's *Monthly list of official colonial publications* which reveals, for example, that some gazettes publish voters' lists. The U.N. list has an inventory with dates of those held at Geneva, which will be a useful stopgap until the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies' list is published.

How many libraries are subscribing to the supplements to *Willings's press guide* (10s. 6d. p.a., 1954 to date)? This basic tool has been much improved in the last few years; the appalling muddle in the "Libraries" subject list has been sorted out, but there is room for improvement in the main listing—all those entries under "Journal" make cataloguers shudder (incidentally the *Journal of the Queen's Royal Regiment* has a nice bit of class distinction: according to Willings, the subscription for officers is 5s. and for other ranks 3s.! Where do libraries come in this hierarchy?)

With its issue of 1st March, the *Library journal* has started a regular feature reviewing new periodicals; *British book news* has for some time included occasional notes of this type.

The Library of Congress has published a new edition of *Serial publications of the Soviet Union, 1939-1957: a bibliographic checklist* (G.P.O., £2.75); this attempts to list all serials except newspapers and oriental language periodicals, and gives U.S. locations. There is a rough subject guide. A most important and valuable survey appeared in *College and research libraries* for May: "Bibliographical guides to Russian periodical publications 1901-1956"; this is fully and critically annotated.

The lists of current French periodicals available to us in the past have been of two types: those restricted to the interests of advertisers (*Annuaire de la presse française*) and those compiled by subscription agents (*Revue et périodiques de langue française*); we therefore welcome a list based on deposit at the Bibliothèque Nationale: *Répertoire de la presse et des publications périodiques françaises* (Paris, Éditions de la Documentation Française, 3,300 francs). This lists some 15,000 serials received by the Bibliothèque Nationale between January, 1956, and June, 1957, and gives frequency, date of commencement, editor, publisher, address, size, and price; there are indexes of titles, editors, key words of titles, and organizations. The *Répertoire* is, of course, kept up to date by supplement A of the *Bibliographie de la France*, and an interesting comment on the magnitude of the task of keeping up with changes in periodicals is provided in the comment of the editor (H. F. Raux) on the number that "changent tout à coup (près de 1,500 par an)."

I am saved from the task of listing the many other lists that have appeared, by the publication in the *Journal of documentation* of "A survey of some foreign guides to periodical literature since 1945"; this is in the September issue, and complements the survey of Commonwealth guides in the same journal in March, 1956.

CHARLES A. TOASE

TECHNICAL COLLEGE LIBRARIANS

On the 7th July, 1958, the librarians of seven London Aided Colleges and the librarian of a National College, met to form a group, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. R. Yescombe.

The Colleges and librarians are:

Battersea College of Technology: R. F. Eatwell, A.L.A.
 Borough Polytechnic: R. S. F. Duff, A.L.A.
 City of London College: Miss M. Wilkes, A.L.A.
 Northampton College of Advanced Technology: W. P. G. Harris, M.A., A.L.A.
 Northern Polytechnic: E. R. Yescombe, F.L.A.
 The Polytechnic, Regent Street: E. R. McColvin, A.L.A.
 Sir John Cass College: E. Singer-Blau, A.L.A.
 Woolwich Polytechnic: Miss Betty Jones, M.A., F.L.A.
 National College of Heating and Ventilating Engineering: Mrs. S. Dixon, F.L.A.

It was resolved that the group should meet at least once a session, to discuss matters of common interest, and any problems arising therefrom would be brought to the notice of the appropriate authorities.

For this purpose, R. F. Eatwell was elected Secretary of the group.

Correspondence

(Correspondents are requested to write as briefly as possible.)

RECREATIONAL LITERATURE IN LIBRARIES

MISS N. M. NICHOLSON, M.A., A.L.A., *15a Disraeli Road, Ealing, W.5*, writes:

In his letter published in the July RECORD, Mr. Croghan suggests that the correspondence on "recreational literature" has now widened, so may I now comment on an observation of Mr. Croghan's, made in an earlier letter (in the May RECORD), the implications of which go beyond the bounds of the original topic? In that earlier letter Mr. Croghan, having asked for our credentials as "arbitrators of other people's taste in reading matter", said, "This assumption, that we are in some way entitled to decide what other people should read is, I submit, wrong. . . . It is not supported by our professional training. Where in our examinations do we set up as critics? Group D is not evaluative but historical. . . ." Do these words mean that the examiners have adopted some comprehensive theory of library purpose, or do they not? If they do, I challenge the conclusion that this is so.

I fully recognize that Mr. Croghan's case does not stand or fall by arguments adduced from details of the syllabus, and on his position as a whole I am not qualified to speak, since I do not work in a public library; but I must say I am troubled by his apparently holding that the L.A. as examining body has come down on his side. Any such contention is a serious matter, not only because, so far as open pronouncements are concerned, the question remains unsettled (and, I might add, speaking as one who has considered it merely from an examination angle, probably always will be on the theoretical level—the fact that satisfactory library service can be provided on the basis of partial or temporary resolution of the conflicts of obligation involved does not remove the difficulties inherent in the question as such), but because the L.A. is examining candidates from libraries whose problems are not those of the public library. If the exclusion of "evaluation" from Group D is rationally conceived (and presumably it is), a satisfactory explanation of the exclusion ought to cover entrants to more than one type of library. Incidentally, by "evaluation" I understand "discriminative feeling" (a phrase I borrow from a *Times Literary Supplement* leader), but a certain awkwardness arises because Mr. Croghan

mentions Group D without specifying English literature, and some of the alternatives are not susceptible of evaluative treatment in that sense.

It occurs to me that the Law Society excludes from its examination syllabus a number of rather theoretical subjects within the purview of legal studies, such as Constitutional Law, Roman Law, Jurisprudence and Natural Law theory, without being supposed thereby to indicate that these subjects are no concern of a solicitor. In the nature of things, solicitors are apt to include in their ranks persons interested in them and competent to expound them, so I imagine that, apart from the consideration that there is no time for them in an already long training, the true explanation is that to insist on their inclusion would be to put a false emphasis into an essentially practical discipline. I hope it is not unseemly to mention another professional body in this connection, but I think we can possibly find here an instructive parallel. Evaluation as practised by librarians is characterized by dilution, and to suggest that we shall be required to practise evaluation *pur sang* is only misleading. Evaluation as practised by critics asks the question, "Which should I prefer, Tennyson or Tupper?" It is a question not confused by social and economic issues—at least, not in the shape of the law of supply and demand. Librarians, on the other hand, are always having to overlay this question with another, the answer to which I would call the operative answer for them: "Which of them should I select, given that my readers want Tupper, and all the available editions of Tennyson are too expensive, etc., etc." (The limiting clauses may be varied according to type of library.) Evaluation is present in this activity of librarians, but in the background; to put it in the foreground by making it the substance of formal tests might reasonably be considered unwise. If my explanation is correct—and I may be far wide of the mark—Group D has little bearing on librarians' setting up as critics, whether that be a bad or a good course of action.

To sum up, I hold (i) that the problem of public library purpose is so complicated as virtually to be insoluble theoretically; (ii) that the L.A. has so far taken up no defined position towards it; (iii) that it would be unfair to imply a position nowhere expressly declared, by basing professional tests upon it; (iv) that these tests are not in any case intended for public librarians only; (v) that our examinations should not be based on a theory of library function neither officially promulgated nor generally applicable; (vi) that if a convincing alternative explanation can be

found, that is additional reason for rejecting these possibilities; and (vii) that there exists such an explanation, given above. If I am mistaken in discovering any source of conflict between Mr. Croghan and myself on these points, I apologise and withdraw.

STAFF TRAINING IN LIBRARIES

MISS M. WILDEN-HART, F.L.A., *Branch Librarian, Ruislip Branch, Middlesex County Libraries*, writes:

Mr. Paton's introductory article on staff training in the *RECORD* (August, 1958) showed that at least in one library system, each member of staff was given a fair chance to prove his worth. How many libraries have in fact a training scheme? How many annual reports mention the progress made in training staff? Untrained assistants can be very expensive.

Training is the process of helping assistants to gain experience and efficiency in their present and future jobs. It is the task of the library, because it is for the benefit of the library. (Education is for the benefit of both.) In our training programmes, we fail in several respects. We fail to train for promotion. We teach (sometimes) the assistant his job, but seldom train him as an understudy for someone else. We perceive an assistant is dulled by monotony and label him a misfit when, in fact, his boredom is the result of the work making too few demands on him so that he feels he is being wasted. ("I'm not tired, but I'm tired of all this.") He may be engaged in the right kind of work under the wrong conditions, or with the wrong people, or simply, he may sincerely not know what standard is expected of him.

The new entrant sometimes does not get enough encouragement, but it is the "middle-man" we have neglected to train. Administration and supervision is the art of getting things done through people. We must begin with a programme which will train those who will train others. Staff management is not yet taught at our schools and seldom in our libraries. The principles and techniques of supervision are not well known and these can be studied and taught. I suggest we should compile an up-to-date summary of training in librarianship, and set up our own work study group.

A NEW LIBRARY SCHOOL?

MISS N. MCCURICK, B.A., F.L.A., *County Librarian of Somerset*, writes:

I was interested, and depressed, to read Mrs. Eagle's letter in the August issue, stating her case

against the establishment of a library school at Bristol. Her arguments appear unconvincing.

Any library school simultaneously draws its strength from, and brings additional professional awareness to, the region in which it is situated, and nobody who has worked for any length of time in the south-west can fail to understand our need for a full-time school at Bristol. Even if one accepts the last paragraph of Mrs. Eagle's letter, it would be most unsatisfactory to wait until the need for an additional library school becomes urgent before settling the fundamental question of location.

Library progress is made in other areas than London, the Midlands and the North, and, with respect, I would suggest that the library services of the City of Bristol are at least equal to those of Birmingham.

Should we not at this stage avoid confusion of thought on this question of library schools, and consider it from the purely professional point of view? Irrelevant arguments such as the value of living away from home as a means of strengthening a student's sense of responsibility really do not help. Of course I agree that the time of professional study is most valuable if spent away from home, but need this principle apply particularly to students from South-Western England? Some students make a special point of attending a comparatively distant library school if possible, but I have yet to be convinced that London librarians are being urged as a matter of policy to send members of their staffs to provincial schools, or librarians in the Midlands to suggest Newcastle or Brighton rather than a school in their own area.

However distant the establishment of a library school at Bristol may be, I hope that those of us who realize the need will press our case strongly now so as to ensure that though the educational claims of the south-west have for long been disregarded, these claims will eventually be recognized and met by the establishment of the future Bristol School of Librarianship.

A CONTROLLED ISSUE-CHARGING SYSTEM

MR. K. CARTER F.L.A., *Deputy County Librarian of Herefordshire*, writes:

The idea expounded by K. R. Cox in his article "A controlled issue-charging system" (July *RECORD*) has been in practice on travelling libraries operated by the Herefordshire County Libraries since the middle of 1957.

The system is used for adult novels as a means

of time-saving in charging and discharging and serves the purpose admirably.

No difficulty was anticipated and none has arisen.

STAFF MAGAZINES

MR. T. M. ROGERS, A.L.A., *Reference Library, St. Marylebone Public Library*, writes:

In an article entitled "Staff training in libraries", in the August RECORD, Mr. Paton mentioned staff magazines with particular reference to *Pharos*. He quoted, apparently in agreement, six purposes of the staff magazine as detailed by a former editor of *Pharos*. Though these purposes seem worthy enough, I feel bound to point out, both to the former editor and to Mr. Paton, that they are an unnecessary restriction on the production of such a magazine. What is wrong with "literary cavortings"? Why this pompous assumption that "literary cavortings" are necessarily intended to impress outside readers? I think it would be less pompous and more reasonable in Mr. Paton and his Guru to admit that the magazine they envisage is only one kind of staff magazine. Some people might even enjoy their colleagues' "cavortings".

The staff at St. Marylebone produce a magazine which bans all Mr. Paton's worthy objectives. They reasoned at the very beginning that there were already quite enough "library" periodicals and, therefore, decided to try and produce something more general in nature which might even occasionally be enjoyable and amusing. I have seen copies of *Pharos*, and I have seen other people's reactions to them. Like me, they usually lay it reverently aside after reading the first page. Perhaps our colleagues in the few libraries to which *Ad Lib* is sent have the same reaction, and no doubt copies of *Pharos* are eagerly awaited and devoured throughout Lanarkshire—the Scots are notoriously serious-minded. But why does a staff magazine have to have such narrowing objectives? Why do most library staff magazines give the impression of having been written by the same person? And why, oh why, does that person have to be so boringly worthy?

There are other things in life than librarianship and the earth-shaking innovations being introduced at the Dougal Road Branch. In a widely spread system such news will be of interest, but to restrict the content of the staff magazine to these items seems to me parochial nonsense. We are not only librarians—we are also readers, visitors to theatres and art galleries, tourists, footballers, and even sometimes "Sunday" writers. May we

not convey to others our enjoyment of these varied pursuits?

Surely it is time we shook off our lower-middle-class preoccupation with our profession and looked about us enjoyingly at the fascinating multiplicity outside the library, and tried to convey, however haltingly, some notion of how exciting we find it? It is gusto that seems to be missing from so many "library" periodicals. May I make a plea for its inclusion, even at the risk of endangering mutual understanding between management and employees, failing to engender pride in and loyalty to the firm, and all the rest of that tedious bunkum.

MR. W. B. PATON replies:

I readily concede to Mr. Rogers that the staff magazine described in my article is only one kind of staff magazine, and if I gave the impression that it is superior to other kinds, I am sorry. It is the privilege of any library staff to work out the type of staff magazine which suits them, and I congratulate Mr. Rogers and his colleagues at St. Marylebone on the wide range of their interests as disclosed in *Ad Lib*. Since the subject of my article was staff training, I stressed those aspects of the staff magazine which are useful for this purpose, but had no intention to decry other legitimate objectives. If Mr. Rogers had succeeded in overcoming his reverence sufficiently to get beyond the first page of *Pharos*, he would have found that it covers a multiplicity of interests. Back files contain short stories, book reviews, verse, studies of classic and modern authors, criticisms of musical concerts and the drama, humorous articles of various sorts, quizzes, and frequent comments on current affairs. In short (though its primary purpose remains a practical one) *Pharos* has catered for all the varied interests which Mr. Rogers rightly lists as important. Whether its literary style has been "boringly worthy" is a matter of opinion, but if the alternative involves the use of such meaningless jargon as "lower-middle-class preoccupation" and jaundiced phrases like "tedious bunkum", then I am content with boring worthiness.

RESERVATION OF BOOKS

MR. A. R. THOMAS, *Intern Librarian, Brooklyn Public Libraries*, writes:

Miss Pierce's account (August issue) of a new practice in book reservation of a foreign library closely resembles that obtaining in Brooklyn. New novels may not be reserved until they have been in stock for 3 months, and not even then if they continue to appear on the *New York Times* best-seller list.

A positive effort is made to get copies of best-selling and popular titles into the hands of readers as quickly as possible. The reservations policy ensures availability of the free stock, where duplication is practised as far as justifiable. A free stock of paper-bound books also meets heavy demands for new, standard, or filmed and serialized books where demand will rapidly decrease.

A self-supporting pay collection operates where appropriate (at present in two-thirds of the branch libraries). Book discussion and related programmes encourage interest in significant literature (not often of a best-selling rating).

These policies face the ever-present and growing problems of heavy and sudden demand with realism and a large measure of success, and should be well worth the attention of librarians under this pressure.

LIBRARY WORK WITH CHILDREN

MR. P. C. CLEMENTS, *Assistant Librarian, Deal Branch, Kent County Library*, writes:

A present trend in opportunities in libraries must be causing some concern to male librarians, and can only have an adverse effect on potential male entrants to the profession.

I refer to the vacancies announced in a recent issue of the *Times Literary Supplement*, which reflect this trend. In two vacancies for the post of children's librarian, only female applicants were to be considered, and in a third vacancy for a senior assistant librarian, again a female librarian was required. The third vacancy defeats all attempts to discover a reason for what is a most peculiar situation. With reference to the vacancies for a children's librarian, is there any reason why a female librarian should be more fitted to specialize in children's work than a male librarian? Indeed, such a misconception of work with children (for this is what it must be) does nothing but discourage men from specializing in this most important part of librarianship. In the teaching profession, a comparable position would be both ludicrous and impossible.

The L.A. has always stressed the importance of work with children and it seems that the only solution is for the L.A. to continue in this policy, by issuing a revised memorandum on work with children, to include a clause clarifying the position of the children's librarian, and stressing that suitable male librarians should not be barred from such posts. The memorandum might then be circulated among local authorities for their examination.

Obituaries

CHANDLER.—We regret to announce the death in a road accident of Mr. L. G. Chandler, Assistant, Chelsea Public Library, on 25th August, aged 35.

GOEL.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. Hanwant Rai Goel, Librarian, Language Dept., Patiala, India, on 19th July.

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SHEPHERD.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. C. J. Shepherd, Assistant Librarian, Bootle Public Libraries, aged 22.

Appointments and Retirements

ANDERSON.—Mr. I. G. Anderson, Assistant, Signet Library, Edinburgh, to be Assistant, Guildhall L., London.

BARON.—Mrs. L. Baron (*née* Parr), A.L.A., Branch Librarian, Bolton P.L., to resign.

BENTHAM.—Mrs. N. Bentham (*née* Suthers), A.L.A., Senior Assistant, St. Marylebone P.L., has resigned.

CHADWICK.—Miss A. B. Chadwick, B.A., Assistant, Manchester P.L., to be Assistant, Research Library, Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co. Ltd., Manchester.

COCKBURN.—Miss I. M. Cockburn, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Castleford P.L., to be Reference Librarian, Huddersfield P.L.

COVENEY.—Mr. L. M. Coveney, A.L.A., Librarian, Alcester Region, Warwickshire Co.L., to be Librarian, Bedworth Region.

Craven.—Mr. N. Craven, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Regional Library Hq., Otley, West Riding Co.L., to be Librarian, Keighley Technical College and School of Art.

CROWTHER.—Mr. G. Crowther, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Spenborough P.L., to be Librarian, Ciné Section Library, R. Aircraft Establishment.

DAVINSON.—Mr. D. E. Davinson, A.L.A., Reference Librarian, Warrington P.L., to be Borough Librarian of Dukinfield.

DAVINSON.—Mrs. A. Davinson, A.L.A., Mobile Branch Librarian, Widnes P.L., has resigned.

ENSER.—Mr. A. G. S. Enser, F.L.A., F.R.S.A., Deputy Director of Libraries and Museum, Tottenham P.L., to be Borough Librarian of Eastbourne.

ESCREET.—Mr. P. K. Escreet, B.A., A.L.A., Assistant Librarian, National Central Library, to be Assistant Librarian, University College, London.

FAIRBAIRN.—Miss V. A. Fairbairn, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Sunderland P.L., to be Branch Librarian.

FAUGHEY.—Mr. J. P. Faughey, F.L.A., Branch Librarian, Sunderland P.L., to be Deputy City Librarian of Winchester.

FEIWELES.—Mr. L. J. Feiweles, B.A., A.L.A., Regional Librarian, Wilts. Co.L., to be Liaison Officer in charge of Extension Activities, W. Riding Co.L.

FLEMING.—Miss S. K. Fleming, Senior Assistant, Essex Co.L., to be Senior Assistant, Orpington P.L.

GIBB.—Mr. I. P. Gibb, B.A., A.L.A., Assistant Librarian, University College, London, to be Deputy Librarian, National Central Library.

HAMILTON.—Mr. M. J. de C. Hamilton, Senior Assistant, W. Suffolk Co.L., to be Branch Librarian, Richmond P.L.

HARTLEY.—Mr. J. Hartley, Reference Librarian, Wakefield P.L., to be Reference Librarian, Castleford P.L.

HEALEY.—Miss A. E. Healey, B.A., Assistant Librarian, National Central Library, to be Assistant Librarian, Institute of Classical Studies.

HILL.—Miss L. C. Hill, Assistant, Widnes P.L., to be Assistant, Manchester College of Science and Technology L.

HINTON.—Miss V. H. F. Austin Hinton, B.A., to be Assistant Librarian, Glasgow Univ.L.

HIPPERSO.—Mr. L. G. Hipperson, A.L.A., Assistant, Fire Service College L., to be Assistant, Government Communications Hq. L., Cheltenham P.L.

HODDER.—Mr. R. E. Hodder, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Essex Co.L., to be Central Lending Librarian, Worthing P.L.

HOPE.—Mr. D. W. Hope, B.A., A.L.A., Cataloguer, Univ. College of Wales, Aberystwyth, to be Assistant Librarian, University of Reading.

HOULDRIDGE.—Mr. D. L. Houldridge, M.A., A.L.A., Assistant, Toronto P.L., to be Librarian-in-charge, Medway College of Technology and Medway College of Art, Kent Co.L.

JAMIESON.—Mr. D. R. Jamieson, F.L.A., Librarian, British Aluminium Co. Ltd., to be Assistant Librarian, Patent Office.

KEANE.—Mr. J. M. Keane, F.L.A., Assistant-in-charge of Centres, Monmouthshire Co.L., to be Librarian, Newport and Monmouthshire College of Technology.

LIEBESNY.—Mr. F. Liebesny, B.Sc., A.L.A., Patent Information Officer, Mond Nickel Co., to be Editor, *Light Metals Bulletin*, and Librarian, British Aluminium Co. Ltd.

LLOYD.—Miss D. Lloyd, A.L.A., Chief Cataloguer, Worthing P.L., to be Branch Librarian, Goring Branch.

MILLS.—Mr. H. G. Mills, A.L.A., County Librarian of Londonderry, to be County Librarian of Antrim.

MILNER.—Mr. R. H. Milner, M.A., F.L.A., British Council Librarian, Paris, to be Chief Librarian, British Central Library, Cologne, Germany.

NICHOLSON.—Miss N. M. Nicholson, M.A., to be Temporary Assistant, India Office Library.

OXLEY.—Mr. R. Oxley, A.L.A., Branch Librarian, Seaford Branch, E. Sussex Co.L., to be Regional Librarian, Belper Region, Derbyshire Co.L.

PEARSE.—Mrs. S. M. Pearse (*née* Gibson), B.A., A.L.A., Librarian, Stafford County Technical College, has resigned.

PLUMB.—Miss J. G. Plumb, Assistant, Whitefield Branch, Lancs. Co.L., to be Assistant, Eastbourne P.L.

POCOCK.—Mr. J. D. S. Pocock, A.L.A., Assistant Reference Librarian, Reference Library, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

POSTE.—Dr. L. I. Poste, F.L.A., Assistant Director, Toledo (Ohio) P.L., to be Professor of Library Education, State University of New York, Genesco, New York, U.S.A.

PROCTER.—Mr. P. W. Procter, Assistant, Manchester P.L., to be Reference Assistant-in-charge of Audio-Visual Division, Lima P.L., Ohio, U.S.A.

RICHARDS.—Mrs. D. M. Richards, Senior Assistant, Gloucestershire Co.L., to resign.

THOMPSON.—Mr. D. A. Thompson, A.L.A., Librarian, Shipston-on-Stour Region, Warwickshire Co.L., to be Librarian, Alcester Region.

TIMMS.—Mr. D. B. Timms, Assistant, Birmingham College of Commerce, to be Assistant Librarian, South Shields Marine and Technical College.

TOON.—Mr. J. E. Toon, B.A., to be Reference Librarian, U.S. Information Service, London.

TOWNSEND.—Mr. J. G. Townsend, B.A., to be Assistant, Cornwall Co.L.

WALKER.—Miss D. E. Walker, F.L.A., Librarian, Ararat P.L., Victoria, Australia, to be Deputy Librarian, Malvern P.L., Melbourne.

WARD.—Mr. P. Ward, Assistant, National Central Library, to be Assistant, Holborn P.L.

WARREN.—Miss M. Warren, Branch Librarian, Goring Branch, Worthing P.L., to resign on marriage.

WHITE.—Miss S. N. White, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Vancouver P.L., to be Children's Librarian, Books-mobile Branch, Vancouver P.L.

Corrections

DAVIDGE.—Mr. R. Davidge, B.A., A.L.A., Assistant, R.A.E., Farnborough, to be Deputy Librarian, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

HUTT.—Miss E. O. Hutt, A.L.A., Assistant-in-Charge, Church Road Branch Library, Malden and Coombe District, Surrey Co.L., to be Senior Assistant, East Ham P.L.

Appointments Vacant

Chartered Librarians are advised to refrain from applying for any post in public libraries demanding Registration Qualifications (A.L.A. or F.L.A.) which is advertised in the General or Clerical Divisions of the National Scales or in accordance with the Miscellaneous Salary Scales.

ASLIB

LIBRARIAN required to develop the Aslib library as a library research tool and demonstration unit. Desirable qualifications: original ideas, a degree, library qualifications, sound experience in administering a small specialised library, ability to abstract literature covering librarianship and information work, some knowledge of languages. Salary scale £900 × £50—£1,250 p.a. Apply: The Director, Aslib, 3 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

Aslib invites applications for the post of HEAD OF ITS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT concerned primarily with answering enquiries for technical and economic information. Candidates must have varied experience in specialized information departments and extensive knowledge of British and foreign sources of information. A university degree, knowledge of scientific and technical subjects, administrative ability and a reading knowledge of one or more languages would be additional qualifications. Salary scale £1,000 × £50—£1,750 p.a., point of entry to depend on age and experience. Superannuation scheme. Apply, naming two referees, to the Director, Aslib, 3 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

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Applications are invited for the post of TUTOR LIBRARIAN. Candidates should preferably have a university degree and be qualified librarians with a knowledge of scientific and technological literature. The person appointed will primarily be responsible for the organization of the Library, but will also be required to do a small amount of lecturing on Librarianship and tutorial work.

The Salary scale, in accordance with the Burnham Technical Award, is £1,200 to £1,350 (for men).

Further particulars of the appointment and forms of application may be obtained from the Registrar, Institute of Technology, Bradford.

W. H. LEATHAM, Clerk to the Governors.

Applications are invited for the post of ASSISTANT in the Library and Information Bureau of the Library Association. Applicants must be Chartered Librarians. Salary within the range of A.P.T. I (i.e. £575 × £30—£725) according to qualifications, plus London weighting, subject to superannuation deduction on confirmation of appointment. Applications must reach the Secretary not later than 31st October, 1958.



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Examination Results

TEACHER-LIBRARIAN CERTIFICATE

The Joint Board of Assessors of the Library Association and School Library Association have issued the following announcement of results of the Examination held in July, 1958, the first held by the Board.

Number of entries	209
Number who did not sit	10
Number who sat	199
Number who passed	70
Percentage who passed	35
Number who were referred in one paper	12
Number who failed	117

The names of those who passed are set out below. All candidates have been informed of their results, and certificates have been sent to the successful ones.

Armstrong, A. D. W. Bridgford Lutterell Rd. Co. Sec.
 Ashdown, Mrs. M. A. Woodkirk Sec., Morley
 Baillie, Miss M. Hutchesons' Girls' Gramm., Glasgow
 Bainbridge, F. Boys' Co., Chilton
 Ball, Miss C. M. Cockington C.P., Torquay
 Bass, Miss L. Victoria Jubilee S.M., Newcastle
 Bewick, Miss E. M. Victoria Drive Sec. Sec., Glasgow
 Bonar, F. L. Dunbar Gramm., E. Lothian
 Brooks, Miss A. M. S., Mapperley Plains C.P., Nottingham
 Brundan, Miss K. M. Kenyngton Manor S.M., Sunbury-on-Thames
 Butterworth, Miss M. C. Girls' Co. Sec., Sowerby Bridge
 Cape, A. H. Longbenton Boys' Co. M., Northumberland
 Chinnock, S. Leo S.M., Asylum Rd., S.E.15.
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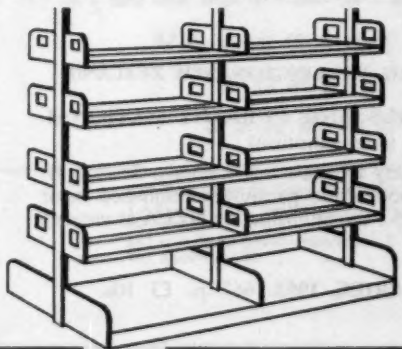
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